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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.

Regulated Liberty.

In an address at Williams College Saturday on "The Executive Function Under the Constitution" the Hon. RICHARD ACHILLES BALLINGER repeated for the reproof and correction of sentimentalists this sound definition of a constitutional and lawful policy under this Administration and under every Administration:

"There can be no policy that does not keep within the law and undertake to administer with intelligent vigor and fidelity."

Within the law! Not beyond or without the law, in the vague and dangerous region of good will. Mr. BALLINGER quoted Mr. WEBSTER on "good intentions" as a plea in confession and avoidance of disregard of the Constitution. In the absence of a full report of the Williamstown remarks we do not know if he quoted Mr. WEBSTER's speech in the Senate May 7, 1834:

"The spirit of liberty is, indeed, a bold and fearless spirit; but it is also a sharp sighted spirit, it is a cautious, sagacious, discriminating, far-seeing intelligence; it is jealous of encroachment, jealous of power, jealous of man. It demands checks; it seeks for guards; it insists on securities; it intrenches itself behind strong defences and fortifies itself with all possible care against the assaults of ambition and passion. *It does not trust the amiable weaknesses of human nature, and therefore it will not permit power to overstep its prescribed limits, though benevolence, good intent and patriotic purpose come along with it.*"

A Government of constitutional and legal restraint, not a Government of individual will or caprice; administered according to law and not according to the personal desires of attractive or salient personalities or the beliefs of wrong headed enthusiasts or for the satisfaction of magazine editors selling mare's nests to millions for the happiness of the business office.

Then and Now at Albany.

There may perhaps be a certain historical value at the present time in an examination of the membership rolls of both Senate and Assembly in the sessions of 1901 and 1902, the years in which it is charged that there was wholesale corruption and bribery at Albany. A comparison of the lists of that time with the rolls of the present Legislature may serve to suggest to what extent any revelation of scandal then can reflect upon the Legislature now sitting at Albany. The relevance of ancient scandals to present conditions may thus be indicated to some extent.

Of the members who sat in the Assembly of 1901 only five are now members of either house at Albany. Of the five the Hon. JOTHAM P. ALLDS, the Hon. BENN CONGER and the Hon. FRANK C. PLATT are in the present Senate, and the Hon. JESSE S. PHILLIPS and the Hon. DANIEL D. FRISBIE are still in the Assembly. A year later the Assembly record discloses the names of the Hon. JOSIAH T. NEWCOMB and the Hon. J. MAYHEW WAINWRIGHT, who are now members of the Senate, and those of the Hon. JOHN R. YALE and the Hon. EDWIN A. MERRITT, Jr., who are still Assemblymen and were then serving their first term.

Up to the present moment the charge of bribery and corruption has been confined to the Assembly membership of that time. In the Senate in these years were six men who still remain there, although several have not served continuously; these six are BRACKETT, DAVIS, HILL, GRADY, CULLEN and SULLIVAN. There are then fifteen members of the present Legislature whose service goes back to the days of the alleged corruption, fifteen in a present membership of 201. If the charge be narrowed to the Assemblies of those years, however, the number falls to nine.

Whether for good or evil, then, it is fairly plain that a wholesale change of legislators has taken place in the last nine years. The most convincing proof of scandals in 1901 and 1902 could not apparently involve any considerable share of the present membership. If the Assembly condition of that time alone is considered, then only ALLDS, CONGER, NEWCOMB, WAINWRIGHT, YALE, PLATT, MERRITT, PHILLIPS and FRISBIE, all but the last Republicans, could by any possibility be involved.

So far as any or all of these men are concerned proof of any wrongdoing would of course very properly carry with it removal from public office, but how far a wholesale indictment of the Legislature would be warranted by revelations affecting nine men in a body of 201 is rather doubtful. Time has removed practically all the men who could possibly have been concerned in wrongdoing in those years, and the most that can be expected now is a demonstration of past offence, with the possible proof of guilt against an insignificant number of survivors.

One chapter in recent legislative history seems to have been totally overlooked, and that is the Assembly purge by the late Governor FRANK W. HIGGINS in 1906. In that year, backed by Federal influence, he forced a reorganization of the entire Assembly; practically every committee of importance was placed under a new chairman; almost every influential member whose record was open to suspicion was deprived of important committee place, and a whole régime was wiped out. In the years that followed the men who had been thus reduced dropped out, until practically no one who was a force under the former Assembly organization is now left in the lower house.

A thorough work of party housecleaning was done at this time, and done with the deliberate purpose of escaping the consequences of a state of affairs that had become a well recognized scandal. Nor can it be safely denied that despite certain limitations imposed by the requirements of practical politics the conditions in the Assembly in the years that have followed have been vastly better. Justice to the late Governor HIGGINS and those who supported him would require a recognition of this work in any survey of recent legislative history.

We have reviewed these facts because we believe that they deserve consideration in the present debate. They do not bear upon the Allds-Conger episode. They cannot in any way affect the importance of the possible revelations with respect to the members of the present Legislature who sat in the Assemblies of 1901 and 1902. But they do indicate why no investigation, however thorough, can reveal facts warranting any indictment of the present Legislature. They do also, we think, show why it is unreasonable to expect that in the present proceeding facts will be disclosed which will cast any great or valuable light upon present day conditions at the State Capitol. Of their historical value it is perhaps possible to speak more hopefully.

Great News for the Mississippi.

At last the esteemed New Orleans *Picayune* has come to understand that there is no present hope for the deep waterways scheme. That $50,000,000 a year for the next ten years, if no longer, will not be bestowed upon the promoters; the noise and the shouting are all over, the eloquence of the Progressive Union has been turned off and the consumption of bisque and courtbouillon, delightful as ever, becomes purely unofficial. The *Picayune* puts it sadly but firmly:

"Now that we have been brought to understand that there is going to be no money for deep water in the Mississippi River and its great tributaries as long as the powerful interests of the Eastern States of the Union can prevent it, and they will prevent it until the source of national power shall be transferred to the Mississippi Valley, the people of this great interior region must content themselves as best they may and use all their energies to get such service as is possible with their rivers as they are."

One ray of light, however, breaks through the thrice banked clouds; and of this our well beloved contemporary philosophically proceeds to make the most. The House Rivers and Harbors Committee will recommend an appropriation of $4,000,000 to revet the banks of the Mississippi from Cairo to the mouth of the river. In that fact there is a gloomy consolation. The Senate will no doubt concur, and really this scheme will more than meet the wildest expectations of the Valley up to the time when the boomers conceived the idea of looting the Treasury for their own benefit. To revet the banks means to make them stationary and permanent. It means the end of caving edges and disappearing levees, and it represents a consummation which only a few years ago the Valley would have welcomed with grateful hearts and tear filled eyes. As a matter of fact it is more than sensible men have expected, and all that the most enthusiastic could have wished. Prosecuted by the United States engineers, in conformity with intelligent and comprehensive plans, it will make the Mississippi's banks enduring, forever locate and regulate the channel, and create a base upon which a complete system of protective dikes can be erected with every reasonable prospect of their permanency.

We might ask our well beloved if somewhat remote neighbor to consult the personnel of the men of both houses active in river and harbor matters and tell us upon what facts it rests its theory of Eastern jealousy and rancor. In this hour of its bitter disappointment, however, we refrain. Far be it from us to crush the stricken or throw salt into a new made wound. We say instead, Cheer up!

The "Athenæum" on Publishing.

The London *Athenæum* takes a rather despondent view of the publishing trade, wherein it sees and bewails:

"Overproduction of books which for the most part never ought to have been published * * * thought and wisdom books, primers, books of extracts and anthologies are being much overdone. * * * Annotated editions [of English classics] of every kind must be far in advance of the demand for them."

The overproduction of novels troubles the *Athenæum*. Including short stories and juveniles it received 887 works of fiction in the season of 1907, the three months of September, October and November, and 788 books in 1908. "How is it possible to deal with such a flood as this?" groans the reviewer. One class of books the *Athenæum* does not touch upon; it must exist in Great Britain, though possibly the trade is not so systematized as in the United States. We mean those volumes, turned out in great quantities, which are evidently published at the author's own expense—poems, stories, sometimes religious or philosophical books.

Two classes of books the *Athenæum* is inclined to approve: first, "publications concerning art of all kinds," including the "color books." The pictures in the latter are certainly far better than ever before, and some are really works of art. The other class is that of books on nature study. The output in England must clearly be less than that in America. Without a fling at American books the *Athenæum* would not be itself, but it merely growls at those that deal with English matters and those that give no notification that they have been reviewed already.

With all this no suggestion for a remedy is given. The matter, as in more vulgar trade, must after all be settled by the laws of supply and demand. These also must deny the *Athenæum's* plea to the publishers not to have a "season," but to distribute their books evenly over the year and so give the reviewer a chance.

Title LXXII.

In the interest of certain Americans engaged in the mining of coal in Spitzbergen Senator LODGE has conducted safely through the Senate a bill to amend Title LXXII. of the Revised Statutes by adding the words phosphate and coal to the existing legislation covering guano.

The title is an interesting exposition of the petty range of the ideas of expansion to take in non-contiguous territory as it presented itself to the law makers more than half a century ago, yet within less than a decade after they had by treaty made the United States truly continental when California rounded out the Pacific coast line. It was but two years after the warm debates of the Gadsden purchase that this act was passed.

It went through Congress easily, for it was to provide a boon to the farmer, always a dear object of legislation. The Chincha Islands were then the sole source of supply for the rejuvenation of overworked farms; they belonged to Peru, and their guano was held at a figure which laid a burdensome tax on agriculture. But the whalers had reported the existence of guano islands far out in the Pacific sea, islands under no flag and lying outside all law save that of club and spear. It was to bring to American farms the guano of these islands (Malden and Fanning and Starbuck are names which recall the Nantucket and New Bedford discoverers of their wealth) that this act was passed in 1856.

In brief, the provisions of the statute are that the discoverer of guano on lands not claimed by any Government or occupied by citizens thereof shall file proof of such discovery with the Department of State. Upon the perfection of this proof and declaration that the land appertains to the United States Congress may grant the discoverers exclusive right of occupation, of obtaining the guano and of selling it to American citizens for use within the United States. The price was fixed at $8 the ton in tubs delivered alongside the vessel within reach of her tackle. Jurisdiction as of the high seas was extended over these guano islands. When the guano had been quite removed the United States was under no obligation to retain possession of the territory thus temporarily annexed.

Such was the colonial policy of the United States half a century ago. Under this act several islands were annexed, stripped, discarded. Then other fertilizers were discovered, better than guano, more readily accessible and in greater supply. At the present we recall but two pieces of land held on this tenure. One is Navassa Island in the West Indies, which is still worked. The other is Sophia Island in the Pacific, worked once in a long while, just long enough to keep the title alive.

Senator LODGE's bill seeks to revive this generally forgotten measure and to extend it to modern conditions. The examination of the act of 1856 shows how foreign to American statecraft it then was to imagine that the United States could ever have more than a temporary interest in possessions overseas.

A Temple of "Variety."

In spite of the inhuman cruelty of the Hon. ISAAC STEPHENSON, the Hon. ROBERT MARIONETTE LA FOLLETTE continues to be the most progressive of "progressive" Republicans. His latest and longest step forward was recorded reverently in the Washington despatches of yesterday's SUN.

The flapping of his triumphant banners, the handkerchiefs of Chautauqua, those cordial hands, those easy tears, these are not enough. He turns to the humorous monologue, the "imitation," the fine ample range of the variety stage. If for the moment he appears only as a manager, the bent of his taste and his strong ambition to be a performer are none the less disclosed.

What mock orations, what dumb shows of dark transactions between the Senate and "the interests," what comic ventriloquisms of the Republican two headed party, TAFT and ROOSEVELT, what "inimitable" lightning change "imitations" of villains such as ALDRICH and CANNON, what moral interludes, such as Gripes STEPHENSON refusing $250,000 to Badger BOB, what grand transformation and apotheosis scenes as BOB enters the White House to the red fire of HAYES and VICTOR MURDOCK!

Go early to the La Follette Theatre and avoid the rush!

Mr. Henry's Clarion Note.

We have hailed and here hail again the Hon. ROBERT LEE HENRY of Texas as a heaven born, silver tongued statesman, with more music in his swelling throat than ever the Hon. WILLIAM J. BRYAN could lay claim to, even before Chautauqua had sharpened his beak and prosperity had tightened the buttons on his waistcoat.

The oration of the Hon. ROBERT LEE HENRY of Texas, as disclosed in the *Congressional Record* of January 18, is a masterpiece of which we need say little more. He proposed to change the date of the President's inauguration from March 4 to the last Thursday in April. He recalled that disastrous March 4, 1909, when Mr. TAFT was inaugurated; when the grand stands all along the line were covered with snow instead of being populated by paying occupants of the sightseeing class; when every restaurant was empty, and when cabmen couldn't do business except at hurricane rates:

"Mr. Speaker, I come from one of the Southern States, far away from the national capital, and yet thousands of our citizens came to witness the inauguration. There were dozens from my own district that could not even cross Pennsylvania avenue in that terrible weather. Let me say to those gentlemen who talk about extending the term of a Republican President, Republican Senators and Representatives, that I am as intense a partisan as they, as loyal a Southerner as any man in this House, but I thank GOD the war which temporarily divided the States of the Union is in the past. I thank the stars shining above us that we can stand in this House of Representatives beholding that flag and vie with any Representative, whether he come from the North, the East, the West, in doing it honor with all the fervor of our souls."

But this was not all nor the half. It was greeted with "loud applause," as it should have been. It was in his peroration, however, that Mr. HENRY concentrated the resources of his melody and sounded a high, clear note of minstrelsy that made the rafters ring again:

"As the world mingles with us while we install our Chief Executive, let it be under congenial auspices. Let it be when earth's icy mantle has been wooed by golden sunshine into a carpet of verdure rivalling the kaleidoscopic grandeur of old ocean's emerald, when myriad millions of scurrying snowflakes round yonder dome have been transmuted into seas of April blossoms everywhere 'neath Nature's elements in peaceful accord. Here in this capital, robed in the splendor of springtide and with a beauty unrivalled in all the world, when GOD has summoned his favorite season to smile and speak welcome, we will induct into his exalted station the loftiest official in the greatest republic within the tide of time."

Need we say that the applause over this outburst was "loud"? The snow covered grand stand, the inability of Texans to move about, the failure of all the speculators to make good money out of the visiting thousands, the wholesale wreck of local activities in general, and the counter picture of April greens and bursting buds and free pratique for the eating houses, &c.—all this made a canvas upon which the Hon. ROBERT LEE HENRY painted with a loose and hectic hand. If anything is lacking in respect of Mr. HENRY's "applause" in future we make a bid to furnish it.

Clearly Captain BEN TILLMAN, our singular if diaboleptic good friend, is in good health and almost too good spirits. His demon, the bedeviller, is bedevilling gayly. The worst of it is that Captain BEN enjoys the performance just as much as if he were the prompter, not the prompted. Wherever and whenever there is a chance to displace the mirth, break the good meeting, the Diablotin and the Captain grasp that chance with claw and hand. It is useless to reprove them. The Little Devil is undoubtedly a Republican, and the Senator is entitled to his amusement.

The Governor of Arizona tells us, as many Arizonians have done before him:

"It is safe to say there is a larger number of college graduates in Arizona in proportion to the population than in any other State or Territory in the Union."

Yet Arizona thrives. The college graduate is usually improved by transportation. If he be of the East, he changes his mind as well as his sky. How many a prig, pedant or snob can we recall, justly hated in his Eastern puppy stage, who in the West has acquired humanity, a feeling of good fellowship, a spirit of civic helpfulness and of private friendliness. Yes, even a large, communicative, Occidental self-satisfaction, entirely different from and much more forgivable than the unsocial, silent vanity of the Easterner born of a line of Easterners.

HAS TO STAND.

The Complaint of a Newark Commuter Against the Lackawanna.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am compelled to live in Newark and to use the Lackawanna Railroad for commuting to New York. For the last four months the train service in the morning, between 8:10 and 8:45 o'clock, has been so inadequate to the demands put upon it that at last I feel moved to protest openly. I have not had the pleasure of a seat on the trains in the morning more than once in ten trips in, and worse than that, I am not the only one standing by any means, which means a crowded condition of the aisles, and the conductors and trainmen nearly tear one's clothes off in their frantic effort to get your ticket. You have to pay your good money for the privilege of standing up and being jostled.

Once I dared to protest to the conductor on the train leaving Newark at 8:24 o'clock, and he said he was not to blame, that the train sheds at Montclair would not permit any more cars to be stored there, and as his train started from Montclair he had to take only what there was there. Granting this is the condition (and the train is about ten cars long), that does not do away with the fact that I and many other faithful commuters have to stand every morning into New York. There is no train between 8:13 and 8:24 o'clock, and in those eleven minutes the crowd on the platform is enough for three empty cars, and instead we have a train pull in already full. This morning was a fair instance. At the entrance where I got on there were three people to get off and fourteen to get on.

On Saturday, when so many teachers and shoppers are coming into New York, the condition is equally bad or worse, and instead of putting on more trains for the crowd that is always to be counted on, they run in the trains to the Newark station packed to the doors. This is any time from 10 to 12:30 o'clock Saturday morning. H. D. H.

NEWARK, January 22.

IN THE MOCHA BELT.

Railway to Connect Sana With Hodeidah on Red Sea.

From Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

Consul Charles K. Moser of Aden reports that he had no means of officially verifying the following information concerning the proposed railway to connect Sana with Hodeidah, the same having come to him through private sources:

The Ottoman Government has a company of fourteen French engineers surveying a railroad between Hodeidah and Sana, in the southern part of the Arabian province of Yemen. It is understood that these engineers are to present a scheme of construction, after the survey, to the Turkish Government at Constantinople not later than July, 1910, and that the concession to build the railway will be awarded to the company that will, in competition, offer to build it according to the engineers' plans for the lowest price. In this connection it is understood, however, that the competition will be limited to French companies, as French capitalists are supplying the money for the work.

Sana is the largest and most important inland city in southern Arabia. It is about 100 miles in a direct line from the seaport of Hodeidah, with a rough, productive mountain country lying between, and the commercial value of a railway connecting the two points should be great. The cost of running a line through the rough country has been the chief reason why such a road has not been constructed before. Sana is the capital of the coffee belt, and it has been the use of Hodeidah as its port for the shipping of "mocha" coffee that has given the latter town its present importance.

Glad He Was Shot.

From Petit Parisien.

M. Charles Vaggioni, a newspaper man of Marseilles, was walking in the streets of that city last night when three revolver shots rang out. He felt a bullet strike him and shouted for assistance. Taken to a chemist's shop it was found that the ball, deflected by his clothing, had opened a boil from which he had been suffering. He expressed himself as happy that the bullet had saved him a surgical operation.

In Montreal.

The Bobsled to the Motor,
As it choochooed to and fro:
"*Comment ça va*, old Honk Honk!
How do you like the snow?"

It rained! The big red Motor
Was right there on the job:
"This leaves you on your uppers,"
Said the Motor to the Bob.

MONTREAL, January 22. CY WARMAN.

A QUESTION OF CORPORATION TAXES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—The corporation tax law of August, 1909, provides:

"That every corporation, joint stock company or association, organized for profit and having a capital stock represented by shares, now or hereafter organized under the laws of the United States or of any State or Territory of the United States or under the acts of Congress applicable to Alaska or the District of Columbia, shall be subject to pay annually a special excise tax with respect to the carrying on or doing business by such corporation," &c.

There are many organizations holding State charters whose business is either in whole or in part done in foreign countries. They represent a variety of interests and industries, such as steam railways, street railways, mining, electric light and power, sugar production, rubber cultivation, lumbering enterprises, &c. Some of the producing concerns ship the whole of their output to this country while others ship a part or none at all. Transportation and electric light companies and telephone companies organized here and doing their business abroad are domestic concerns only in respect of their organization, charter and ownership. Some of the proprietors of these enterprises are now wondering whether they are subject to the operation of Section 38 of the law of August 5, 1909, and if so to what extent.

The law declares that companies "now or hereafter organized under the laws of any foreign country and engaged in business in any State or Territory of the United States or in Alaska or in the District of Columbia" shall be subject to the tax as are the companies of domestic organization and charter. Is it the intent and purpose of the law also to tax companies holding domestic charters but doing no domestic business? Is the tax a tax on the organization or on the profits of the business done in this country by the organization? To cite a specific instance: A company holding a State charter is engaged in mining in a foreign country. Its business is large and its profits are considerably above the $5,000 minimum fixed in the law. None of its product is sold in this country and it has not a dollar's worth of physical property here. The case is not unique. There are other corporations whose only property in the United States is a State charter and some office furniture. If these concerns are liable to the tax and decline payment of it, how is the tax or the penalty for nonpayment to be collected?

Review of the debate in Congress throws no light on the matter. This phase of the law appears not to have been considered. In the case of companies organized under the laws of a foreign country it is the evident intent of the law to tax only the net income from the business done in the United States. Does a similar rule apply in the case of a company holding a State charter? If so, a concern whose business is exclusively in a foreign country is exempt, but what would be the status of a producing concern that shipped a part of its product to this country and a part to other markets? If it is held that all are alike liable to the tax on their total net income by reason of their organization in the United States, it is more than probable that in many cases the revelation of profits would be followed by an increase in taxes in the country where the enterprise is located.

If the income of a company holding a State charter but doing no business in this country is held to be taxable under this law, a question may be raised with regard to the equivalent rendered by the Government for the taxes paid. The argument of Federal protection in a foreign country does not hold. The same protection would be due and accorded to an individual whose business did not fall under the tax law. The corporation would not enjoy any right or privilege or protection because it was a corporation. Adventurers like Groce and Cannon may ask protection in case of need, as may the Cuba Company, which owns railways in Cuba, or the proprietors of the Cerro de Pasco mines in Peru.

A very large sum of money is invested in companies chartered in the United States but operating entirely or in part abroad. The determination of their status will make business for the courts.

Uniform Divorce.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In view of the fact that legislation generally in this State is anything but ideal, what is the factor that has resulted in our divorce laws being in such perfect accord with public opinion on the subject, consequently placing us, as is intimated in an editorial in yesterday's SUN, in a superior position as far as divorce is concerned to our neighbors the people of Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut? How did we get into that fortunate anomalous condition?

Is it not possible that there is an error in supposing that the present divorce laws are a correct expression of the public mind in any of these States and that New York is more right on the subject than are these other States with their "lax" divorce laws? Does it seem reasonable to suppose that the rights of either of the parties to a marriage contract or the rights of the State could be very different in these four States?

It is not unlikely that the very difficulties that exist in the matter of changing certain laws and producing uniformity have been caused by political conditions obtaining in one State that for one reason or other might not exist in another. Might not the compromises that would be necessary to secure uniformity result in an advantage, not only in the good that would inevitably come from the fact of uniformity itself, but in curing the defects that existed under the old laws?

Of course, if New York has an ideal law, the only course for the advocates of a uniform divorce law is to educate the people up to that standard. M.

BROOKLYN, January 22.

An Indian's Hatred.

From the Missoulian.

Charlot, hereditary chief of the Bitter Root Indians, erroneously called the Flatheads, is dead. He was every inch an Indian, reserved, taciturn, haughty, self-contained, and at times resentful. But to those who broke through the crust of his reserve he was known as a loyal friend, as steadfast in that rôle as when he played the foe. Charlot suffered much; he was deceived and cheated; he was maligned and mistreated; his pride was hurt; but he suffered most over the wrongs that were inflicted upon his people. Some of his personal grievances he forgave, but he was resentful to the very end against those who had, according to his belief, robbed his people. He was proud and he despised deceit. He had some warm friends among the whites; these he trusted to the limit. But to his last breath he cherished a fierce hatred of the men who lied to him and who drove him from his ancestral home in the Bitter Root. And where is the white man who would not have done the same?

Oklahoma Rural Route Poet.

From the Kansas City Times.

When R. I. Devore, carrier on rural route No. 1, out of Tonkawa, pulled up his old nag at E. E. Youman's box and shivered as he peeled off his gloves, he found a fat capon in the box and the following homespun verse:

Here's to the good old man
That brings our news each day;
He scratches the pennies out of the box
And goes smiling on his way.

He carries the belated schoolboy,
And packages of butter and such.
He gets the thanks of the patrons
But then, that isn't much.

We all wish him a happy New Year,
And hope he will continue to bring
The news of the surrounding country,
Till the news is all gathered in.

CHEESEPARING LEGISLATION.

WASHINGTON, January 23.—Last Thursday an amendment to the urgent deficiency bill, then under consideration in the House, called for an appropriation of $75,000 "to meet the actual and necessary expenses of the delegates of the United States to the fourth International Conference of American States, to be held in the city of Buenos Ayres, beginning on July 9, 1910, and of their salaried clerical assistants, to be expended in the discretion of the Secretary of State."

The discussion of the proposal was chiefly remarkable for its revelation of the general ignorance of the origin, purposes and value of these so-called Pan-American conferences. Mr. Tawney, who introduced the amendment, appeared to know little more about the matter than did Mr. Macon of Arkansas, who opposed the appropriation of so large a sum. Ignoring the provision that the expenditure of the money is subject to the "discretion of the Secretary of State," Mr. Macon declared it "time for us to limit and restrict somebody somewhere in the expenditure of this money and not let them go on in a flaring, glaring way with pomp and pride and waste the money in a profligate manner." Referring to the coming conference in his message of December 7 President Taft said: "It is not necessary for me to remind the Congress of the political, social and commercial importance of these gatherings." The discussion of last Thursday might be regarded as proof to the contrary.

The President further said that it was his purpose, a liberal appropriation for the conference being made, "to appoint a distinguished and representative delegation, qualified fittingly to represent this country and to deal with the problems of intercontinental interest which will there be discussed." These "distinguished and representative" delegates serve without pay. Only their expenses, audited by the State Department and approved by the Secretary of State, are paid by the Government. For the proper performance of their duties they must take with them a staff of secretaries. They must travel first class and stay at the best hotels. They must hold official receptions and give official dinners, lunches and breakfasts. They cannot do this on any cheese paring scale. As Representative Mann said in the course of the argument, "There must be éclat, and éclat costs money." The United States cannot be fittingly represented at an international conference on the basis of a $2.50 a day allowance for expenses. There will be no "flaring, glaring pomp and pride," no "waste of money in a profligate manner," under any circumstances; but the delegation must be financially equipped to discharge every social duty in a manner creditable to the country it represents.

The value of these conferences is beyond expression in dollars and cents. They have their commercial value, and it is considerable though not measurable; but it is silly to attempt to weigh them only in commercial scales or to measure them only with a financial yardstick. The proposed appropriation was cut from $75,000 to $50,000. It would have been wiser to increase it to $100,000. The limit may be an expensive injury, and the whole of a larger appropriation would not of necessity be expended. An unexpended balance would be returned to the Federal treasury. The Senate, which understands such matters better than the House, should increase the appropriation to at least the sum originally called for, and the House in conference should agree to the restoration.

Let us do our economizing at home. When we send out an official delegation consisting of distinguished and representative citizens to meet in Buenos Ayres the representatives of the twenty republics of the Western Hemisphere, let us equip them properly to represent such a country as the United States.

MILDER WINTERS.

A Venerable Delusion Which Has Not Yet Passed Away.

From the Springfield Republican.

This notion that the weather is permanently changing, particularly in the direction of winter moderation, seems at one time or another to possess every generation of men. It was, for example, in flourishing ascendency hereabouts as far back as 110 or more years ago. It then attracted the inquiring mind of Noah Webster, and in 1799 he set about a work of refutation in an essay read before a society at New Haven, Conn. It was even then an aged theory or delusion, and Mr. Webster had such men as David Hume, Gibbon, Buffon, Thomas Jefferson and others to contend against. Gibbon had asserted that the Rhine and Danube rivers in modern times were rarely or never frozen over so that they could be used for travel or traffic, while in ancient times there was evidence that in winter they were commonly used for migrations or the march of armies. The Abbé du Bos found that the Tiber at Rome was thickly frozen over in the year 480, but never in modern times.

In our own country Jefferson noted the prevalence of increasing mild winters in Virginia, contrary to the experience of the early settlers of that colony. Dr. Williams, a Colonial historian, noted that the Delaware River in times prior to the Revolution was commonly frozen over in November, while when he wrote it did not freeze up until January. In February, 1756, 300 soldiers sailed up the Hudson from New York to Albany, and the fact entered into local history as remarkable and as indicating a permanent moderation of the climate. It is a matter of record in relation to our own locality, we believe, that the first settlers of Springfield were able to cross the Connecticut River on ice in November of the year of their arrival here, and it is further a matter of record that in 1635 the river at Hartford was closed by ice on November 15.

On the other hand Mr. Webster himself recorded that in 1779 he saw farmers ploughing land in February along the Connecticut Valley, and peach trees were reported as blossoming at the same time in Pennsylvania. But he shows that the very next year, or in 1780, the winter was extremely severe. In 1779 people thought the weather was permanently moderating, but the next year disabused them of this idea. As against the claims of Jefferson Mr. Webster produced evidence from the journals of the early settlers of that Colony that very moderate winters were experienced in those earlier days as well as occasional severe winters. He further demonstrated that Gibbon was wrong in maintaining that the Danube and Rhine were never frozen over solidly in that later time of the eighteenth century. He went into Roman and Grecian and Scriptural history to show that moderate winters were then known as comparatively severe ones. And his conclusion was that there had been no perceptible change in the weather "since the creation."

Aeroplane Manufacturers in London.

From the London Chronicle.

A year ago the Post Office London Directory contained for the first time among the list of trades "aeroplane manufacturer." There was only one then, now six are enumerated, a smaller number than might have been expected, considering the progress of aviation on this side of the Channel. Subsidiary trades are springing up. Two firms announce themselves as aeroplane engine manufacturers, two as aeroplane fabric makers, and there is one propeller maker, as well as a provider of "aeroplane timber and bends." A rather curious contrast to the industry associated with the newest form of locomotion is provided by a builder of "rickshaws and push pushes," who, beginning business last year, is still in a position of splendid isolation in the London Directory.

Fairness in Oklahoma.

From the Chickasha Journal.

Just because the editor of the *Journal* is running for the post office, we are not going to take undue advantage of any other candidate who hasn't a newspaper. If he has any message he wants to put before the Republicans of Chickasha the columns of the *Journal* are open.

SMALL ECONOMIES.

Their Value to the Thrifty Man in Thirty Years.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* For thirty years past I have polished my own shoes, shaved myself and smoked a pipe. For approximate calculation I consider fifty weeks to the year. The gross saving has been as follows:

Shaving, three times weekly at 15c.=45c. per year, $22.50; 30 years	$337
Shoes, three times weekly at 5c.=15c.; per year, $7.50; 30 years	225
Cigars, three per day (box price), 5c.=15c. per year, $52.50; 30 years	1,575
Gross saving	$2,137

There are sixty weeks remaining unaccounted for, a matter of eighty odd dollars, and I have not considered the interest on the savings for many years, and this is a large sum when compounding, when it is to be considered that the second year it amounted to over $3, and during the period the slight cost of materials purchased was comparatively slight and about offset the above considerations.

I cannot say that my object was economy entirely, but largely convenience of speed in service.

Now the results. To an adult son, three years ago was offered the opportunity of buying from the widow of his deceased employer the business of the latter at the low price of $2,500. I furnished the money, have derived 5 per cent. on the loan, which has been repaid, and the cub with prudence has an enterprise that may produce a fortune because I preferred to shave myself, black my shoes and smoke a pipe.

In all seriousness, why shouldn't other fellows in the tender twenties begin to-day to do likewise? FIFTY-FIVE.

NEW YORK, January 23.

MOLL PITCHER.

A Short Account of the German or Irish Heroine of Monmouth.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The late General W. S. Stryker of New Jersey has no superior as a thorough, painstaking delver into the Revolutionary history of his native State, and his conclusions have been accepted without question by other historians. For instance, it was he who unearthed the fact that it was not Joseph Reed the Adjutant-General of the Continental Army, who applied for British protection during the days that tried men's souls, but Colonel Charles Reed of the Burlington Militia. Bancroft made the correction in his history.

General Stryker spent many months in investigating the facts regarding the battle of Monmouth Court House, and at his death was engaged in preparing a topographic map of the ground. At his suggestion I hunted up the local historian at Freehold and under his guidance examined every foot of the battleground. The facts established by him and General Stryker may be summarized as follows:

The name of the historical Moll Pitcher was Mary, and she was the daughter of John George Ludwig. She was born in this country, and I think her father was an American, though I am not positive. Mary married John Hayes, a Pennsylvania artilleryman, and after his death became the wife of John McCauley. During that frightful June 28, 1778, when scores of troops on both sides succumbed to the awful heat, she was engaged in carrying water to the panting soldiers, not from a spring as is generally said, but from Wenrock Brook, which flowed then as it does to-day at the foot of Combs Hill. Her husband was one of seven men serving a gun. When he fell she caught up the sponge staff, which dropped from his hand, and did his work throughout the battle. Close to the railway, a mile west of Freehold, a post has been set up with the painted words "Moll Pitcher's Well." There is no ground for the claim. The well or spring referred to did not appear until half a century after the battle. Washington did not give Molly a commission as Lieutenant. General Greene presented her to his chief, who complimented her on her bravery and may have made her an "honorary" officer. Molly was fond of wearing a military coat, and no doubt her friends often called her "Captain." A pension was granted to her by the State of Pennsylvania, and she lived in comfort to old age. A neat stone monument in the cemetery at Carlisle bears this inscription:

"Molly McCauley, renowned in history as Mollie Pitcher, the Heroine of Monmouth. Died January, 1833, aged 79 years. Erected by the Citizens of Cumberland county, July 4, 1876." E. S. ELLIS.

UPPER MONTCLAIR, N. J., January 22.

The Income Tax in Virginia.

From the Norfolk Landmark.

Inasmuch as the Federal Government already possesses in indirect taxation the most productive revenue resource known, the States ought to be careful how they surrender their own power of direct taxation. They ought to be sure of an equivalent. They are sure now of nothing except more Federal taxation if they pass the amendment as advocated by Governor Swanson. Why should they sell their birthright for a mess of pottage? We had expected Governor Swanson to agree with Governor Hughes about the income tax amendment, and we believe that public sentiment in the State would have supported him if he had done so.

The Junior Order of American Mechanics.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A correspondent in yesterday's SUN writes, as if himself a member, about the Junior Order of American Mechanics. A secret, oathbound society does not disclose its oathbound secrets. But though "Junior" is restrained from being frank when he discusses the purposes of the order he can be ingenuous. Thus he writes:

"When Mr. Lauterbach speaks of the old 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 and surgery."

It would appear then that the difference lies not in aims but in methods. After this naive disclosure in an attempt to acquit the Junior Order of illiberality, have we no reason for being confirmed in the belief that the inspiration of the two orders is the same—hostility to foreigners and to Catholics? JUVENAL.

NEW YORK, January 22.

Reducing the Sombrero.

Tepic correspondence Mexican Herald.

The charro hat is doomed in the Territory of Tepic, and orders have been given by the prefecture of police that after January 31 all sombreros must not be larger than a certain prescribed size. This disposition of the authorities is due to the fact that the sombrero charro has become a veritable nuisance, some of them being almost three feet in width, and when three or four rancheros sit down in a restaurant there is scarcely room for any one else.

The edict therefore has gone forth that the wide sombrero is soon to be a memory of the past, and any one caught wearing one larger than the prescribed size will be punished by the authorities.

Relief of Indigestion.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The subway management is trying to relieve indigestion. I take an express every morning at Seventy-second street. On entering the car one is treated to a fine body massage. The movement is at first a slow, rotary one, which increases in speed as the train gathers headway. By the time you reach Fourteenth street the body is in a healthy glow, and you reach your desk ready for a good hard day's work. D. B.

NEW YORK, January 23.

Rhode Island Poets.

From the Providence Journal.

Alike on our quiet streams and by the waves of our beachy bays, in the environs of Pawtucket and Wickford, through the hills of Chepachet and Escoheag, in the groves that surround Matunuck and Lime Rock, beside the fertile pastures of Pascoag and the dairy farms of Apponaug, are great souls, modest in their pretensions, who do not sing their songs for gain or seek to make their melody any less free than the spirit that prompts its birth.

New Railroad Line in Mexico.

From Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

A new railroad company has been organized to build a line from Teziutlan, State of Puebla, through the State of Vera Cruz, to the port of Nautla. The $2,500,000 gold capital has all been subscribed. The line will develop a region rich in fruits, sugar, coffee, oil, &c., and the freight on the lemon trade alone will pay the expenses of the road. A branch line will also be operated between Papantla and Misantla.