The Sun.

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The Scope of the Investigation.

A very considerable number of Republicans of the best type, who have no sympathy with graft or bossism and are genuine advocates of reform within the party, are apprehensive that the further official investigation into legislative misdeeds will amount to little more than a muckraking expedition which will unearth fossil scandals to be used as missiles by their political opponents. Speaker WADSWORTH expressed the sentiments of this element in his speech a few weeks ago in opposition to any further explorations after the termination of the Allds matter.

There are just three purposes for which the contemplated investigation is proper: (1) To ascertain the fitness of any Senator or Assemblyman now in office to remain in the Legislature; (2) to learn facts, not gather opinions, which may serve as guides to the repeal or amendment of existing laws or the enactment of new laws; and (3) to elicit information affecting the integrity of any person now in office which would render him liable to prosecution and removal. Before an investigation is actually set on foot somebody concerned in promoting it ought to be able to state one or more cases for consideration falling within one or another of these categories. Unless CONGER and ALLDS had been State Senators in 1910 the doings of the Legislature of 1901 would have been of no more present interest or importance in a practical legal sense than the doings of the Legislature of 1801; and we venture respectfully to suggest now that it is not worth while to investigate anything in the past *unless the probable outcome can be seen to have some bearing on present or future official action.*

For example: if there is evidence of legislative misconduct on the part of a prospective candidate for the Legislature this fall investigate the charge, to the end that he may be rejected at the polls instead of being reelected; or, if State Senators and Assemblymen have received extravagant counsel fees for services to State departments and bureaus which their own votes aided to establish and support, prove the facts to the end that such employment may hereafter be prohibited by law. Give the proposed committee or commission of investigation something concrete to act upon. Do not organize it with the proclamation: "Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! All scandalmongers and vilifiers of officeholders in the State of New York who have imaginary grievances based on untrustworthy hearsay and utterly incapable of proof, draw near, give your attendance and you shall be heard!" Let the investigators deal with realities which will make some difference to the body politic when they are ascertained and thus make the inquiry result in something more than the gratification of a morbid curiosity.

We believe that the best public sentiment in the State favors such an investigation as we have suggested. We are equally confident that it is at heart and in common sense opposed to any other.

The Changing Senate.

Death and resignation have made great changes in the United States Senate during the last five or six years, and now comes the report that the Hon. NELSON W. ALDRICH of Rhode Island and the Hon. EUGENE HALE of Maine will retire at the expiration of their present terms on March 3, 1911. Mr. HOAR of Massachusetts died in 1904, Mr. PLATT of Connecticut in 1905, and Mr. ALLISON of Iowa in 1908, and in 1907 Mr. SPOONER of Wisconsin resigned. These were among the great names in the Senate, as are those of Mr. HALE and Mr. ALDRICH to-day. Long and useful service commends such men as leaders, and the business of the Senate is really conducted by them. It is of course idle and flippant to say that any one man controls and directs the affairs of the Senate. Leadership is nominal, and it is a group of tried veterans who shape legislation, the men at the heads of the big committees, who are masters of practice and precedent.

The retirement of Mr. HALE and Mr. ALDRICH will leave only two of the old guard in the Senate, Mr. CULLOM of Illinois and Mr. FRYE of Maine. Mr. HALE, Mr. ALDRICH and Mr. FRYE took their seats in 1881, Mr. CULLOM in 1883, and all have served continuously since. Of the four Mr. ALDRICH, born in 1841, is the youngest, and Mr. HALE, born in 1836, is also junior to Mr. FRYE and Mr. CULLOM, who were born respectively in 1831 and 1829. So it is the younger men who will soon leave the Senate, and they are chairmen of its two most important committees, Mr. HALE of Appropriations and Mr. ALDRICH of Finance. Their other committees are also of the first order, Mr. ALDRICH being a member of Interstate Commerce, Public Expenditures and Rules, and Mr. HALE of Finance, Naval Affairs, Public Expenditures and Census. A glance over the committee assignments of these Senators on Finance and Public Expenditures they are associated reveals the source of the influence these giants of the present day exercise. Promotion has come to them slowly; indeed, they have become chairmen of Finance and Appropriations by seniority, as the Senate custom is. Once secure in their places, natural ability and strict attention to the business in hand have made them powerful in their spheres of usefulness. Mr. HALE is the best informed man in the Senate on naval affairs, although Mr. PERKINS of California is chairman of the committee having charge of the subject, and as most of the yards are on the Atlantic coast and the fleet is generally stationed in eastern waters it is natural that Mr. HALE's influence should be superior.

It will not be easy to fill the places of these hard workers and experienced men of business. Seniority will make Mr. PERKINS of California chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and Mr. BURROWS of Michigan, whose present term will expire on March 3 next, and Mr. PENROSE of Pennsylvania are in line for the chairmanship of the Committee on Finance. But when men of approved influence pass from the stage in the Senate it does not follow that their successors will fill their shoes. A marked change in the character of the Senate is to be noted in these days. Younger men, whose tenure has been brief and who lack the experience of the veterans and inferentially their wisdom, are not disposed to sit at their feet or tolerate their authority. The newcomers refuse to be bound by precedent and have no patience with conservative methods. Ambitious and pushing, they do not want to wait for promotion by seniority. They desire power and covet influence by a short cut. The retirement of Mr. HALE and Mr. ALDRICH is therefore likely to unsettle conditions in the Senate, and the readjustment of relations will probably be attended with more dissension than propriety.

Speaking for the President.

At the dinner in honor of Lord KITCHENER on Monday evening Mr. JOSEPH H. CHOATE, acting as toastmaster, introduced Attorney-General WICKERSHAM as a speaker who would ably "represent" the President of the United States. Mr. WICKERSHAM's remarks, unhappily, were not reported in full by newspapers, but one account of the dinner contains these sentences:

"Mr. WICKERSHAM said at the outset that he did not relish the responsibility that had been imposed upon him by Mr. CHOATE. It was hard for anybody to represent the President, said the Attorney General, and he did not feel himself peculiarly qualified."

What a man says under the pleasant influences of so delightful a gathering as that of the Pilgrims on Monday should not be subjected to analysis too searching, yet this modest sentiment inevitably must have recalled to not a few of the members of the society who heard it the interesting incidents that marked Mr. WICKERSHAM's last previous effort to interpret and set forth the thoughts of Mr. TAFT. This was made on April 9 at the dinner of the Hamilton Club in Chicago. Mr. WICKERSHAM there "spoke for the President," his mission having been advertised widely and his remarks having been approved by Mr. TAFT in advance. In this address Mr. WICKERSHAM declared with the appropriate emphasis:

"I speak to an assembly of loyal Republicans. I am sure I voice your thought when I say the time of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds is over, and every one must choose whether or not he is for the President and the Republican party. 'He that hath no stomach to the fight let him depart.' Treason has ever consisted in giving aid and comfort to the enemy. If any one wishes to join the Democratic party let him do so. But let him not claim to be a Republican and in and out of season work to defeat Republican measures and to subvert the influence of the Republican President.

"When the account is cast and the people weigh them in the balance at the next general election, who will they find most favored, they who stood shoulder to shoulder with the President in carrying out the party pledges, in improving the administration of government, in enacting the legislation promised by the party, in fairly, impartially and fearlessly administering the laws, or those who, true to no party principle, hovered like the bat in the fable between the contending forces, sometimes with one, sometimes with the other, and in the end were cast out and scorned by both?"

These words were accepted, as they were obviously intended, as a defiance and assault on the so-called "insurgent" Republicans. They were received as notice to the anti-Cannon Representatives and the anti-Aldrich Senators that party discipline must be obeyed, that personal opinion must be subordinated, and that the legislative machine must be supreme. Mr. WICKERSHAM, speaking for the President, officially issued the ultimatum.

Unfortunately for Mr. WICKERSHAM President TAFT himself made a speech on the same evening of the Chicago deliverance. Mr. TAFT was in Washington and attended a dinner there of the Republican League of State Clubs. He, too, dealt with the subject of party loyalty, party obligation and party regularity. Here are some of the significant phrases he used:

"I am reading nobody out of the Republican party. I want them all within the ranks, and they will have an opportunity to establish their claim in both houses by helping to enact the legislation the Republican party stands for.

"By their acts ye shall know them, and those who are with me in good faith to redeem party pledges have a right to stand and identify themselves with the Republican party. No man has a right to read anybody out of the party. They read themselves out if they are disloyal. I want everybody in the ranks, whether they may have slipped away a little or not. I want them back with me.

"We don't want to quarrel with them [the insurgents], but we do desire their aid as long as the Republican party needs them.

"I don't want to say they [those who spoke or voted differently from him] are not Republicans, and I do not want to say they are not as sincere as I am myself.

"The Republican party is not rigid in its demands, but broad, and admits of differences of opinion."

It is not too much to say that when the heated and final words of Mr. WICKERSHAM, "speaking for the President," and the mild and tolerant expressions of the President speaking for himself were read by an intelligent electorate on Sunday morning, April 10, they produced the effect of confusion, indecision and divided councils. The Taft utterances in Washington turned the edge of the Wickersham outpourings in Chicago. The one neutralized the other.

Can Mr. WICKERSHAM have had this experience in mind when he delivered his modest address to a distinguished soldier on Monday evening?

Comet and Vine.

A French physicist has added the modern touch of sciolism to the persistency of the mediæval dread of the lash of the comet's tail. It was enough for him that the spectroscope revealed cyanogen in the light driven emanations from the nucleus of Halley's comet. That serves to fix our fate, extinction, a dead world. Any person on May 18, when we sweep through this imponderable tail, who will or can hold a chunk of potash in his mouth will invite the fate which the French alarmist foresees. The cyanogen might reach the potassium, the laws of chemical isomerism are ineluctable, that person would find his mouthful of potassium instantly transformed into KCn, the deadly cyanide of potash. But why fret over a chance so remote? The trace of cyanogen is too slight to penetrate the earth's atmospheric envelope.

Far more satisfactory would it be if these prognosticators of shudders but turned their attention to the bright chapter of cometary records. No one has yet essayed to prophesy the effect that our coming visitor will have upon the vineyards and the casks which hold that which maketh glad the hearts of men. This year is to have a great comet, but who can tell if it is indeed to be a comet year?

The real vintage comet was that of 1811, that year has gone into history as "the comet year." For half a century its wines were cherished more and more as the comet sped away from its perihelion into outer space from which it is never to return. It was in sight in its lingering sweep through the northern skies for 510 days. It shone upon the vines from the first thrill of the swelling sap to the bursting of the buds, from the blossom to the purpling of the grape, to the treading in the vats. Never was there such a year for wine.

This Halley's comet was in a lesser degree a vintage comet when in 1835 it last swung into view. It displayed its glories late, in November, when the grapes had all been pressed and the wine lay in the lees. Yet the year was famous in the history of the Moselles.

The last great comet, that of the autumn of 1882, shone upon the grapes when the pink blush was deepening into purple bloom. This was a vintage year in the new vineyards of the Cape and of Australia; its wines are still held high in honor at the Antipodes.

But this year the comet comes early and the vines have scarcely budded. It gives but a wink at the vineyards and scurries away. There is no cometary science of the wines, the film in the heavens lighter than the ghost of lace can work no weal or woe on beast or any growing thing. But the coincidences are curious. A comet year of 1910 will be welcome in many years to come.

The Irish and the Liberals.

With the closure rule applied to the discussion of important matters like the budget and the elimination of the House of Lords the waste of a whole day's time by the House of Commons over a question of veracity between Mr. WILLIAM O'BRIEN and Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE seems futile and outrageous. The text of the budget presented yesterday will settle the matter of the Government's concessions to the Irish party; whatever may have been debated and haggled over outside, the budget offered will show what Mr. REDMOND has agreed to vote for, and the importance of all intervening negotiations disappears.

It is to be regretted that, as usual, when a measure that will benefit Ireland is at stake there should be dissension among the Irish members themselves. They will not learn the lesson that their strength lies in offering a united front to the enemy. One bit of truth came out of the discussion, which England will have to think over, when Mr. TIM HEALY spoke out on the guarantee question and declared that at the election the voters would have to decide between the Liberals on the one side and the Lords and the most popular man in England, the King, on the other.

The denial of any agreement with the Irish by Mr. ASQUITH can only refer to the budget. He admitted in Parliament only a few days ago that he had made an agreement with Mr. REDMOND on the Lords question.

Representative DE ALVA STANWOOD ALEXANDER of Buffalo has introduced a measure in correction of the high cost of living. Eggs, formerly sold at cents the dozen, are now sold at a few for a quarter. Mr. ALEXANDER's bill seeks to establish the sale of eggs by weight, and appropriately it has been committed to the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures.

In view of the recent volumetric analysis of the egg conducted by Dr. HARVEY WASHINGTON WILEY, this temporizing measure should be amended. Bad enough is the quantity of eggs; the quality is far worse, even of "strictlies." Dr. WILEY has established the unit of the egg's gravity; it is that of the egg which will float just submerged in a 10 per cent. solution of salt and water. This answers all requirements of a physical constant, for it may be correlated with the other units of gravity. These depend upon the unit of specific gravity of gases where hydrogen is unity. The unit of egg gravity will of course depend upon its constituent of sulphuretted hydrogen. In such a classification, the standards naturally to be established by the Department of Agriculture, eggs exhibiting a specific gravity less than unity will not be entitled to a serial number and guarantee of purity; in the trade they must be classed as omelet eggs.

This great solicitude for State securities is becoming painful.—*Springfield Republican.*

Worse than that. We are beginning to hear intimations that this great solicitude for constitutional principles, for the preservation of rights never surrendered and powers never delegated, for the form of government which the fathers gave us, is becoming more or less of a bore.

GOOD ROADS IN THE SOUTH.

Antipathy to the Automobile Prevents Their Construction.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The South will probably not go to any considerable expense for good country roads until the question of the control and regulation of the automobile in the interests of the general public is settled.

In Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee, and indeed in several other States, excellent highways have been constructed and maintained, but this was done without the slightest reference to automobiles and for purely local purposes. It wasn't so long ago that a South Carolina county, considering the construction of a local road that would have filled a link in the then projected "boulevard," refused to appropriate a dollar for either improvement or maintenance, and the authorities put it on the ground that a good road would bring automobiles, which they didn't want, and wouldn't have at any price. The decision seems to have been extremely popular with the taxpayers.

Quite recently somebody constructed six or seven miles of perfectly beautiful roadway in one of the environs of Richmond. It was done at Government expense. Immediately the autos took possession of the new road. Southerners realize, of course, that the motor car has come to stay. Moreover, Southerners welcome it, or at least do not object to it. Newspapers may arrange picturesque excursions of criticism and stimulation. Local neighborhoods lean on the fences and make shrill welcome. The unresisting watermelon is opened, and spring chickens, with corn pone, fairly lubricate the local ebullition; but the South is not opening its wallet for automobile thoroughfares. SHENANDOAH.

WASHINGTON, April 18.

FREE TRADE IN IRELAND.

Positive Declaration of the Preferences of the Irish.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is a strange suggestion on the part of Lord Rosebery that the Unionists when they again appeal to the country should put aside free trade and demand a vote on the constitutional position of the upper chamber, for Mr. Patrick Ford, who has been the American-Irish collector of money for the Nationalistic party, has written to a London paper a letter in which he says: "Free trade, like the Lords, must be abolished. More than anything else it has been the ruin of Ireland and one of the chief causes of her poverty."

If Mr. Balfour took the vote of the House of Commons on tariff reform he would have a large majority, for the Irish to a man are protectionists, and so are a number of the Liberal members. Just at present there is a regular stampede from free trade England to protected countries. Thirty thousand second and third class passengers are going to Canada this month, and thousands more are going to Australia, South Africa and the United States.

Sir John William Tavenor, Agent-General for Victoria, says that last year they sent out 1,000 persons with a capital of from £50 to £4,000 to Victoria alone. This year, he says, there will be at least 2,000 families emigrating to Victoria, and the agricultural districts of Great Britain and Ireland will lose their best men. The Canadian "boom" is immense, and the very best class of people are crossing the Atlantic for a "good dinner," as Carlyle would have said.

BROOKLYN, April 19. BRITISHER.

Joy Riders All!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Two baseball players killed in one day! Writers in the public prints will ask: "Well! What are you going to say about football now?" As if two wrongs could ever make a right, or even a less wrong!

Comparison of the two games as man killers is confusing and fruitless. Each has its record of injuries and fatal accidents. The two records are absolutely independent. Football would be no worse if no one was ever hurt at baseball. Baseball would be no better had football three times as many deaths to its credit.

These recent striking baseball tragedies are highly significant. In football and in baseball alike the danger, whatever its exact degree, springs from one single source: emulation by the amateur of the performances of the professional. Here is an opening for the quibbler, who will patch up his definitions of "amateur" and "professional" to fit the present case.

When the man who plays supposedly for "fun" copies the methods of the man who is in it for money, for a living, he puts sport on the footing of a serious occupation. The emphasis is on the result, and the means don't count. Hence the spirit of "any way to win" and the disregard of peril to life and limb.

It is all just a part of the mad carnival of speed, of a joy riding age. Let 'er out to the last notch! Drive like the devil and trust to blind fate to hand out the smashups to the other fellow!

NEW YORK, April 19. F. N. E.

Old Greenwich Village.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The letter of "Visitor" affords proof of THE SUN's contention that in Greenwich village alone are to be found, still surviving, the methods, manners and men of a fast disappearing New York of at least other if not better days.

In no other section of the city at present would the coming of this pilgrim have been hailed from the street corners with the almost forgotten salutation of "one up" in recognition of the fitting and no doubt burnished crown of his Sunday attire.

Even the phraseology has varied but slightly, according to his report, in which this language is now rendered. In the days when I participated in the ceremony it was one up for the "high hat" instead of for the "stovepipe."

Last and most convincing, where else in New York can still be found existing side by side, as in other days, a place of rest and one of entertainment unaffected by the march and improvements of time?

Although the little graveyard in Greenwich village is rarely visited, there are still a few of us remaining who call up the ghosts of other days by a reminiscent visit to the "Grapevine," which still adjoins this once hallowed spot.

NEW YORK, April 19. J. P. D.

Gleeful Recital of the Man Who Walked.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* To a man in a neighboring city three years ago I loaned $5,000, taking a mortgage on his property as security. I learned that he applied $3,500 to the purchase of a touring car. To search the title for my protection and to pay a commission to the real estate agent who negotiated the loan cost me $155. The owner of the touring car has been arrested and fined three times for excessive speed; his license, supplies, repairs, ferriages, road meals, &c., in three years have easily consumed the difference between the loan received and the purchase price. He has paid me $750 in interest and now offers the car in vain at $500, and must renew the mortgage. He has consumed $5,000 in enjoyment, so called.

On my side the full value of my principal remains, plus $750 interest, plus compounding and further accretion. I learn that the borrower is quite delected, but I am feeling fairly well.

NEW YORK, April 18. LEGS.

D. Cupid, Census Taker.

When Cupid takes his census
He has a simple list.
With nothing that approaches
The sociologist.

He cares not for your mortgage,
He asks not for your work;
Your ancestry he heeds not,
Nor any other quirk.

He doesn't care a farthing
Who is the family head.
The names he is not taking,
But offers one instead.

His census aims to settle
If two may be made one.
He pops a single question,
And then his work is done.

McLANDBURGH WILSON.

AROUND THE GALLERIES.

The Luks Pictures.

It is the sincerely human strain in the Luks pictures that is attracting such a throng of people to the Macbeth Galleries. That his first "single man" exhibition would be the artistic event of a waning season was a foregone conclusion. When he appeared in company with the so-called "Eight" his work aroused peculiar interest. No need to tell SUN readers that in any exhibition, here or abroad, George B. Luks would hold his own. A more important question was whether he would stand the extremely trying test of a solo performance. This question is fairly answered by the present collection. Not one but thirty-six canvases figure on the programme, and yet it is not too long. Nor is the eye shocked by the explosion of hues or by insistent brutality of themes. There is but one example in the gallery that can be called brutal. It is the "Wrestlers," an almost academic exercise if compared with some pugilistic illustrations we have lately reviewed. Besides, a wrestling match is not precisely a harp recital, as much as the extension and contraction of legs and arms resemble arpeggios. That forthright quality appertaining to the art and temperament of Luks is averse from calling a spade by any other name. Therefore his two giants roll and clutch; you hear the gasp of wind that is squeezed bellowwise from their chests, and the squeak and crackle of their strained muscles. It is a monstrous design, one that might have pleased both Michelangelo and John L. Sullivan. That it may be called gentle art we doubt, but it is alive, every inch of it; and we are spared the sight of blood. A man is being massacred, but it is a dry, not a liquid massacre.

Possibly Mr. Luks included it in his catalogue for the sake of variety, for he is nothing if not versatile. It demonstrates his sense of "tactile values" with a vengeance, and in the last analysis is as human as his "Spielers," though not as pleasant. The latter picture, rechristened "The Dancing Girls," shows us Luks in his most charming mood. It is a little masterpiece, and the poet and the philosopher are in the makeup of Luks. His mixed German and Dutch ancestry have contributed to the ensemble of his admirable qualities, but his humor is altogether American, we are tempted to say altogether of New York. He is genuinely cosmopolitan without losing an iota of our indigenous virtue. A painter of the people, of the comedy and tragedy of life's little ironies, he is never betrayed into depicting with sentimental excess the sociological wrongs of a class. This is refreshing, for nowadays we get too many second rate sermons and pamphlets in paint. The humanity of his subject is the chief concern of Luks. We never tire of seeing those two carefree children whirl about the pavement to some merry tune, overheard rather than heard. "The Pawnbroker's Daughter" is a classic. The envelope of this picture is beautiful; the colors commingle harmoniously, the girl with the Eastern eyes, who carries so deftly the carafe on a platter—Salome did not compass the feat more gracefully—is unforgettable. Signed with the name of some great modern Dutchman this canvas would be famous. It will be some day.

Luks is more Dutch than German in style. That baby with the vigorously modelled head plucking at the strings of a guitar is quite Dutch in feeling. The paint, the brushwork, the sentiment are all of Holland. Dutch too in suggestion is the chess café, with its group of interested players in a Rembrandtlike atmosphere. Mr. Luks was never in Holland, though he studied in Düsseldorf; luckily he has forgotten how to paint like that juiceless school. Abounding energy, an obstinate curiosity tempered by sympathy with poverty and suffering, united with his remarkable plasticity of style, have kept him from stagnating in academic swamps. Nor can his work be placed in the category of the insurgents. He is too individual, too much Luks to be drawn into the maelstrom created by another man. He will never be a follower of Matisse, because he has too good an opinion of Luks; nor of Manet or Monet. And this is well. It is his way of seeing things rather than his recording of them on canvas that is his prime claim upon critic and public. His color sense is so opulent, his handling of his material so dexterous that he ventures easily into territory where others stumble. "Audacious" is the word that best describes such color experiments as the "Woman and Macaw." We praised it last year, as well as the "Woman With the Parrot" not in the present exhibition. The man who can manage such scarlet sonorities can also paint a miserable girl in gray tonalities that are exquisitely modulated. She is now called "The Little Gray Girl," and she has draped herself in a shawl a world too wide for her. She would have brought tears to the eyes of Dickens; but there is no suspicion of the pose sentimental, the pose lachrymose. That is how the tact of omission is so excellently understood by Luks.

The "Duchess" seems to have stepped from some picaresque tale. Swaddled in stolen gowns, her nose richly tinted, her eyes those of a bird of prey, this sinister yet humorous figure is as lovingly rendered by the artist as if she were a society belle. Perhaps more so; the elements of her makeup are more complex. The "Old Clothes" man is true to the type, and with a fund of unuttered wisdom and humor in his strongly marked features. The "Child Playing With a Doll" is good Luks, the painting in particular, though the subject is well worn. "Amateurs" is a sketch of two half frightened, half defiant young people in a sharp white stagelight. The "Jam Thief" is a kiddy making away with his plunder, a mere note, none the less eloquent. "Churning" takes us back to the "Pet Goose"—unhappily not in this collection—although it lacks the quality of that wonderful old woman. We confess that we are not convinced by the landscapes or the flowers. Mr. Luks has not found his way as yet in the open; he generalizes too much and does not seem to care for his picture. That Central Park scene might have been an interior, so stuffy is it. It lacks air and animation. But his portrait of a heifer, not recorded in the catalogue, is very fine, and Mr. Macbeth should place on view the "Pigs" of yesteryear; they are masterly. Of the "Cats" the same may be said.

It may be noted that the most significant contributions to this exhibition are not new. For several years past Mr. Luks has busied himself with portrait painting, and with mixed results, although in the matter of sheer handling it is in this department that he betrays most improvement. His surfaces are sleeker, the edges more delicate, his conjunctions finer. There was much adverse criticism of the head of Senator Root, but those who know that statesman saw the essential man behind the professional mask. Luks never aims at subtlety, or if he does he usually misses the target. Salient traits he always depicts, though he may lose half of the characteristics of his sitter in the process. For instance, the head of John Quinn, Esq., is not only an excellent likeness but it expresses the man of law. John Quinn lover of art and literature is not present; that side did not interest the artist; he was after character, not an æsthetic trait. How does a lawyer look? Like John Quinn, we confess. F. J. Gregg, Esq., is easily the most triumphant of the portraits, for the problem was hardly facile; the placing of the head and bust and the boldness of the brushwork are alike admirable. How does a critic look? The answer must be—like No. 20.

But the Luks that juggles with an idiosyncrasy as does a virtuoso on the single string is to be found in the heads of "Soutar Johnny" and W. H. Fraser, Esq. The latter is a strong interpretation of a strong personality. Miss May Harriman's portrait is vital as far as it has gone; it will be improved by further sittings; and the full length of E. W. Root, Esq., we may praise as a piece of splendid brushwork, even if the resemblance does not fly from the frame to your eyes—as our Gallic brethren would put it. Both the portraits of Mrs. Luks and her sister, Mrs. H. E. Frankenberg, reveal skilled craftsmanship, though we regret that Mr. Luks has fallen into the prevalent fashion among artists of understating the good looks of their wives. Withal a decorative picture is No. 13.

The real Luks, however, is the Luks interested in the byways and highways of life; the Luks who knows the heart of darkness on the East Side; sympathetic and brilliant painter of men, women and children as they joy or sorrow, thrive or die. We sincerely hope that his successes will not turn him astray from the path he has made his own; that he will remain in America and record the New York scene. We have plenty of face painters, but only one Luks.

ARBOR DAY.

Desirable as the School Exercises Are, the Trees Should Be Planted Now.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Tree planting time naturally suggests Arbor Day, the observance of which is set for May 6. I would suggest that arrangements be made to do the planting now, the sooner the better, as the best way to secure a choice tree and insure its successful growth later. Some minor details of the planting may be left uncompleted for the day of the exercises, and the tree may even be draped with a flag, removal of which after the proper interval would give full effect to this part of the day's observance.

The Board of Education makes no provision for tree planting about its costly school sites, though it might reasonably do so, since the trees would add at small cost a desirable improvement to its properties. The planting of trees about the schools therefore must be done by private enterprise, as in some instances has been the case, and by the combined work of teachers and pupils. The Park Department issues on application permits to plant trees on the city streets. The trees designated for street use are the maples, elms, lindens, sycamore or plane tree, and possibly some other varieties may be permitted on special application, but this list is adequate.

The cost of planting the tree complete ranges from $15 to $25, according to conditions, but where several are to be planted the cost a tree may be materially reduced. The preparatory work (excavation, supplying soil and cutting an opening in the pavement) is the costliest item, but when the work is well done a good tree more than pays for the expense incurred.

JOHN Y. CULYER.

NEW YORK, April 18.

Nominated for Life.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Roosevelt for the next term, but the country would be far better off if it was for life.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., April 15. C.

A Big Lens Cooling.

From the Los Angeles Times.

Within a month or six weeks there will be an item of news at the Mount Wilson Observatory which will interest the entire world. It will be known at that time whether the 100 inch lens recently cast in France is to be a success or not. The attempt to cast the big reflector was once before made and the result was a failure. It takes several months for the big casting to cool, and the second one is in that process now. The first reports are that it will probably come out all right.

Some idea of the difficulties to be overcome in mounting the big lens that is coming will be gained from the fact that it weighs five tons. This piece of glass must be hung so that it will move with perfect ease in order to be kept in a fixed position by the clockwork attachment which overcomes the motion of the earth. Dr. Hale's invention is a steel bearing floating in mercury, a principle in use on the sixty inch lens, which weighs a ton.

Astronomers originally doubted the efficiency of the larger lenses. It has been demonstrated that the spectra of the stars are increased in a ratio corresponding to the size of the lens, and with the 100 inch disk there are remarkable possibilities of developing new facts in regard to the universe.

This lens, weighing five tons, will have to be transported to the top of a mountain a mile high, where tons of the original material for construction had to be packed over a narrow trail on the backs of burros. The wagon trail built for the purpose of getting the sixty inch lens to the top will again prove indispensable.

The Flying Tackle and the Devil Wagon.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Earl Wilson will not be forgotten by his comrades, as any person that knows anything about those fine young fellows, our future navy officers, knows. I did not know Mr. Wilson, but I feel his death as an intimate friend would, as I have searched the papers day in and day out hoping for news of his recovery.

Football is not as dangerous as people that don't know anything about it think it is. My father was scorer of a champion basketball team one season, and he said he preferred football to that game.

If a person is killed in an automobile accident do we stop riding in them? No. The very next time we are asked to go riding we go.

As to the injured Yale tackle, in THE SUN of April 15 is this statement: "McCullough received his injury in body checking a man in order to tackle."

Most football players are supposed to know that if they keep the muscles of their neck stiffened they will not be hurt when they make the diving tackle. ELAT.

UTICA, April 18.

Revolt in Utica Against the Vow to Love, Honor and Obey.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Twenty-five women of the Political Equality Club of Utica are desirous of knowing on what ground the Episcopal Church justifies forcing on the women of that Church who marry the vow to "love, honor and obey." The refusal to make this vow does not conflict with any church doctrine. What authority has the Episcopal ministry to force a woman to marry elsewhere in order to avoid making it if she is orthodox on every doctrinal point of her Church?

The Roman Catholic marriage service, as prescribed by the Church, does not contain this vow; neither does it contain the promise of the man, "with all my worldly goods I thee endow." Any Catholic woman who objects to making the vow has simply to request that it be omitted. The Episcopal Church is now the only Christian Church that requires the promise to obey. We have found it impossible to obtain a satisfactory explanation from any minister of the Episcopal Church. A. M. T.

UTICA, N. Y., April 18.

Mushrooms in Old Mines.

Morgantown correspondence Baltimore Sun.

Theodore Imbach of the State experiment station has found a new use for abandoned mines. He has produced in them mushrooms of the best grade, his experiment showing the abandoned mine to be an ideal place for mushroom culture. He is producing mushrooms of the best quality in an abandoned mine near the State farm here, having plants that yield from the one mine from $8 to $10 worth of mushrooms a day.

A Kansas Bridegroom.

From the Cimarron Jacksonian.

The groom was attired in a dark business suit and wore pink begonias and plum blossoms, which made a very pleasing picture as they stood between the bridesmaid and best man in the double door between the parlor and sitting room in the Amos home.

THE POWER OF THE STATES.

How Far May They Regulate the Qualifications of Voters?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* To understand fully the jurisdiction of the several States of the Union and of the Federal Government over the qualifications which may be required as conditions precedent to voting it is necessary to have a clear comprehension of the powers over legislation of the individual States on the one hand and of the Federal Government on the other. The Federal Government can exercise only powers that are expressly or by reasonable implication granted to it by the Federal Constitution. An act of Congress therefore is warranted only by express or implied authorization of the Constitution of the United States. Each State, on the other hand, has plenary power to enact through its Legislature any law, provided only that such law be contrary neither to the Constitution of that State nor to the Constitution of the United States. In the case of a law enacted by the Legislature of a State, even though the right to enact the law may not be denied to its Legislature by the State Constitution, yet if that law is in conflict with the Federal Constitution it must fall. The Supreme Court of the United States occasionally overturns acts of State Legislatures for these very reasons. It is apparent, therefore, that the qualifications required of voters are subject exclusively to State regulation except to the extent that the State is limited in its action by the Constitution of the United States.

A careful examination of the Federal Constitution will show that that instrument nowhere prescribes what qualifications voters for candidates for intrastate offices shall possess as conditions precedent to voting, except that no discrimination against a voter shall be made by reason of his race, color or previous condition of servitude. Even in voting for members of the House of Representatives the Constitution of the United States lays down no requirements other than that "electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature" and that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude."

The only other provisions of the Constitution of the United States which have a bearing upon the subject under discussion are the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. The Fourteenth Amendment makes all persons who are born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to its jurisdiction, citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. The Fifteenth Amendment forbids any State denying or abridging the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. Since the Fourteenth Amendment makes all citizens of the United States citizens of the State in which they reside as well, the Fifteenth Amendment forbids any State of the Union denying to citizens of that State the right to vote on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. The Constitution of the United States, however, confers the right to vote upon no one. A man's right to vote must be derived from the State of which he is a citizen. Before the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment it was within the right of a State to exclude from the suffrage any person from whatever cause. Any State therefore may impose whatever limitations it pleases in respect to the qualifications of voters, except that those entitled within the State to vote for the members of the "most numerous" branch of the State Legislature may also vote for members of the House of Representatives from that State, and except also that no discrimination can be made against any person's right to vote by reason of his race, color or previous condition of servitude.

In respect to the qualifications of voters for candidates for intrastate offices the Federal Constitution is silent except in the provisions of the Fifteenth Amendment.

The Constitution of the United States exacts no qualifications whatever of those who vote for Presidential electors. Indeed, as to each State is granted by the Constitution (Art. II., sec. 1, sub. 2) the right to appoint electors of President and Vice-President in whatever manner it chooses, the several States are in a position to deny to each voter the power to elect (through electors) the President and Vice-President of the United States. If, however, a State grants to its inhabitants the right to vote for electors of President and Vice-President it may impose any qualifications or conditions it chooses, provided there is no invasion of its own Constitution or of the Fifteenth Amendment.

We have seen that the right to impose conditions precedent to voting is an attribute of State sovereignty. It is conceivable therefore that a State might prescribe absurd or highly unreasonable qualifications for voting without any infraction of the Constitution of the United States, such qualifications, for example, as that all voters shall be at least fifty years of age or that only red haired men may vote or that only married men may vote. These restrictions being obviously not based upon race, color or previous condition of servitude do not offend the Constitution of the United States.

It is true, to be sure, that a State which denies to its male citizens of full age the privilege of voting may suffer reduction of representation in Congress, but this provision of the Constitution has no effect upon the right of the State to impose even capricious restrictions upon the suffrage if the terms of the Fifteenth Amendment are observed.

The manner in which States limit the right to vote is shown in Connecticut, where all men unable to read in the English language any article of the State Constitution or any section of the statutes of the State are disqualified from voting; in Massachusetts, where all men unable to read the Constitution of the Commonwealth and to write their names cannot vote, and in Wyoming, where all of voting age unable to read the State Constitution are debarred. Some States admit no one to the privilege of voting unless he is a taxpayer, and of course the States generally forbid a man convicted of a heinous crime to vote.

Finally the right to vote is not a necessary consequence of citizenship. In the several Colonies at the adoption of the Constitution suffrage was not coextensive with citizenship, nor has it ever been since. Citizenship has no relation to age or sex. If every person by reason of citizenship were entitled to vote, all women, native born or naturalized and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, could claim the right to vote under the Fourteenth Amendment. In 1872 Susan B. Anthony under the advice of an able lawyer voted for a member of Congress and cited as her authority the Fourteenth Amendment. Miss Anthony was arrested, tried and fined, the court holding that a person may be a citizen of the United States and of the State wherein he or she resides and yet not possess the right to vote. The right to vote is deemed purely a favor conferred by the State upon the citizen as a matter of grace, and theoretically up