The Sun.

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Garfield-Pinchot?

We have been putting it the other way until now; that is to say, PINCHOT-GARFIELD.

Recent events, including and following the martyrdom of the virtuous and fully insured KERBY, seem to justify us in reversing the order of precedence and making it GARFIELD-PINCHOT. Is not GARFIELD, after all, the principal, the more important figure?

There are innocent souls who yet believe that behind all this sulphuretted hydrogen looms a grand moral issue, vaguely defined as Conservation, for the sake of which sneak stenographers and others may gloriously go to the stake. To all such we recommend a careful study of the circumstances under which the Hon. JAMES RUDOLPH GARFIELD was disappointed in his ambition to continue as Secretary of the Interior in President TAFT'S Cabinet.

The Secretary and the Paymaster-General.

Secretary MEYER seems to be possessed of a remarkable gift of patience, but finally he has wearied of the hysterical activities of Paymaster-General ROGERS and has put the extinguisher upon that alert and playful gentleman. ROGERS is a subordinate official of the Navy Department. He has not appeared to realize it, but the fact is just so notwithstanding. The Paymaster-General had defied the Secretary, he had denounced and no doubt withered the Attorney-General, and he had held his place under Mr. MEYER just the same.

In the course of the hearing before the Senate Naval Committee ten days or so ago it was developed that ROGERS did not want or did not propose to obey any orders from his official chief, and he airily dismissed the Attorney-General's opinion with a remark to the effect that the latter didn't know what he was talking about. Senator HALE and so on, landsmen all, but deeply interested in navy yards, which for the moment the constructors and the paymasters dominate, very much to the content and profit of other landsmen in Congress and out of it, were revealed in the attitude of a profound admiration for ROGERS. Let us admit that he is a strenuous and picturesque figure. He has been shaking his fist in the face of the whole Administration, while Secretary MEYER smiled pleasantly upon the tableau.

Of course it is not possible to conduct the Navy Department efficiently or even with common dignity so long as a subordinate officer like Paymaster-General ROGERS ignores and in fact deliberately disobeys the explicit orders of his superior officers. It came to a situation where either Secretary MEYER must retire to private life and leave the paymasters and constructors in control or ROGERS must go. It is ROGERS who goes.

Congress Should at Least Increase the Appropriation.

Congress has committed the work of raising or removing the wreck of the Maine in Havana harbor to the Secretary of War and the Chief of Engineers. General WILLIAM L. MARSHALL, than whom there is no more competent authority, reports that the appropriation of $100,000 is inadequate for the preliminary coffer dams. The sensible thing for Congress to do is to adopt General MARSHALL'S suggestion that authority be given the Secretary of War to spend whatever money may be necessary to raise or remove the wreck.

The amended Loud bill, which passed the House on March 23 and the Senate on May 4, "authorized and directed" the Secretary of War and the Chief of Engineers to provide "with all convenient speed" for the raising or removal of the wreck. The sum of $100,000 was appropriated "on account" of the work. The House had no illusions about its cost. It would surely be $500,000, it might be more. The object of entrusting the work to the War Department was to get it started and assure its completion economically. The original bill directed the Secretary of the Navy to ask for bids, and he was limited to $500,000 for settling with the contractors. But it was felt that only red tape and futility would come of this method. One responsible wrecking company had estimated the cost of the work at $800,000, and it was known to be Secretary MEYER'S opinion that a per diem contract would have to be made if the undertaking was ever to be finished. He was in favor of turning it over to the War Department. Accordingly the Loud bill was amended. From the debate in the House we quote a significant passage:

"Mr. SULZER—I have just offered an amendment to raise as well as remove the wreck of the Maine.

"Mr. GOULDEN—Where are you going to get the money?

"Mr. SULZER—This bill appropriates $100,000; if more is necessary, it can be appropriated later on.

"Mr. GOULDEN—One hundred thousand dollars will not be sufficient to do that.

"Mr. SULZER—If it is not enough, we can appropriate more."

So the plainly inadequate $100,000 was voted "on account of the work herein authorized." The requisition for more money at an early date was to be expected. Congress must remember that the Secretary of War and the Chief of Engineers were to proceed "with all convenient speed." We assume that the House was thoroughly in earnest when it directed them to remove the wreck of the Maine—the vote was 115 to 4; and therefore, as General MARSHALL is as honest and as worthy of trust as he is competent, it should be the pleasure, as it is the duty, of the House to increase the appropriation, if it is not willing to leave the cost of the completed work to the War Department.

Unexplored South America.

In a monograph published in 1901 Mr. GILBERT H. GROSVENOR said that "of the six continents South America is now the least known," and upon a chart illustrating his text he marked immense tracts in the central and northern parts of the continent, more than a quarter of it, as unexplored.

Major P. H. FAWCETT, a retired British army officer, has let the light in upon some of these black spaces since the Grosvenor monograph was written, having penetrated to districts on the Bolivian-Brazilian frontier watered by the Guapore, where a white face was never seen before. The Guapore is a tributary of the Madeira, which flows into the Amazon in north-central Brazil. In 1908 Major FAWCETT, at the request of the Bolivian Government, undertook the delimitation of the eastern frontier as provided for in the treaty of Petropolis with Brazil. By that treaty, negotiated after the revolt in Acre had been quelled, Bolivia ceded 70,000 square kilometers of territory in return for $10,000,000 and concessions giving her access to navigable waters of the River Paraguay. It was in the capacity of surveyor that Major FAWCETT, who had already distinguished himself in pioneer work in South America, laid the geographers under a lasting obligation, for the mapping of the interior proceeds very slowly.

Why so much of South America remains terra incognita Major FAWCETT explained in a lecture upon his expedition to the Royal Geographical Society in March, which is published in the May number of the society's journal. The explorer who seeks the headwaters of the Amazon must not only run the risk of pernicious fevers and encounters with poisonous reptiles and lurking beasts like the jaguar and the black panther, but he must defend himself against savages now waging a war of reprisal upon the whites, who in the exploitation of rubber forests have treated the Indian with "horrible barbarity." Under the circumstances peons enter an explorer's service reluctantly, and often desert him in the presence of danger. The transportation of supplies is a baffling problem, and game is hard to get at in the dense tropical forests. So high is the mortality in expeditions such as Major FAWCETT led that the chances are heavily against any man's return to civilization. Of the dangers of progress by water, which method must be generally pursued, he says:

"In the Amazonian rivers there are anacondas, crocodiles, electric eels, stingrays and the perania, a small, deep bodied fish with razorlike teeth and an unappeasable appetite for blood. This last is more numerous in the river Paraguay, where men who are unfortunate enough to fall into the river may be picked clean before they can be rescued."

The insect pests are legion, and merely to call the roll of them is enough to deter any but the hardliest spirits from seeking glory as explorers in Amazonian forests—the roca-roca and marigwis, microscopic flies that raise blood blisters; the gehene, against which no mosquito netting is proof; ticks, jiggers and guanacos that burrow under the skin, innumerable members of the wasp tribe; the apazanca, a giant venomous spider; the tucandera, or black ant, whose bite is "agonizing"; the sepi, with mandibles that can strip the clothing from the body. "If I could describe the misery born sometimes of these flying and crawling pests," says Major FAWCETT, "it would be thought a traveller's tale." Some of these terrors have their seasons and their localities, but mosquitoes are ubiquitous at all times. One Acre variety is an inch long and has the evillest of reputations.

Foreign naturalists who say that they have lived with the savages are drawing upon their imaginations, declares Major FAWCETT. But he has met a Peruvian of Acre who spent two years of observation among the Indians of Putumayo. To emerge alive from the experience this man had to turn cannibal. Major FAWCETT'S expedition would probably have been a failure but for the aid of General PANDO, a famous explorer himself, who supplied peons and rations as well as experience. Three months were spent in ascending the Acre River to a point near its source to learn its relation to parallel 11 degrees south. From the Acre the party crossed through the forest to the Abuna, determining on the way the headwaters of the Rapirran and Iquiry. On the Abuna, which "is probably the most unhealthy river in the Amazonas," the party killed an anaconda sixty-five feet in length. Of Major FAWCETT'S ten companions, six were stricken with fever (including an Englishman, Mr. A. J. CHIVERS) and dropped out on the march, and two of the Indians and Don CARLOS DUN, a Bolivian gentleman, afterward died. A death rate of 25 per cent. is common among exploring parties in tropical South America.

In another expedition Major FAWCETT rectified the frontier in the neighborhood of Corumba and settled a disputed question concerning the River Verde, an affluent of the Guapore in northern Matto Grosso. In ascending the Verde his party was reduced to living on palm tops and on game, which proved very scarce. Stumbling and pitching forward from hunger the peons prayed to be allowed to die, and it became necessary to use force to keep them going. All the dogs of the expedition died, and when it was all over five of the six peons died. The observations made practicable, however, a joint delimitation of the Verde.

Doubtless the interior of South America calls for scientific exploration, as this hardy and intrepid Englishman says, but what of the rewards if the climate is so deadly and life is a torture in the endeavor? For the wealth of minerals and rubber white men will be slow to expose themselves. That vast territory watered by the upper Amazon and its myriad affluents and their tributary streams is still unexplored country away from the river banks. All travellers, including Major FAWCETT, agree as to this. The geographer of course is interested, and the naturalist and the miner and the rubber king. There must be tribes in the wilderness that have made no progress since the landfall of PIZARRO. This is the lure to ethnographers. Major FAWCETT has met several halfbreeds who declared that they had caught glimpses of white Indians with red hair. Indians with blue eyes have also been reported; they have a name, Morcegos, "people who travel and hunt by night and hide by day." In Paraguay there is said to be a tribe whose men habitually speak one language and the women another. And then there are stories of huge, crumbing ruins and of strange animals recorded in no fauna.

What is mythical and what has the color of truth can be learned only by breaking into this great unknown. At least it may be said that South America is the only dark continent remaining.

The License Fee for Beggars.

One of the many beggars that now make the public thoroughfares of New York unpleasant for honest men was arrested on Tuesday and arraigned in court, where he displayed $64 which he had collected in two days appealing to the passersby on Fourteenth street. Whether he observed the eight hour law this parasite did not divulge, but his income amounted to an average of $1.50 an hour for the whole day. The Magistrate collected from him $5, or considerably less than 10 per cent. of his takings, and this will be duly turned in to the city treasury as its share of his loot.

There may be some citizens unreasonable enough to think that the discomfort caused by this successful trader on human weakness, the fear that his threats gave rise to in the minds of men and women, should have induced the Court to inflict a real punishment on him instead of merely assessing him for a license fee. Captious persons may think that the "penalty" in such cases should be of a kind to deter other shameless creatures from adopting this means of making an easy living. We have no intention of impugning the wisdom of the Magistrate. Does he not wear a beautiful black silk gown?

But it is pleasant to know what judicial discretion fixes as the proper share of the city in the proceeds of begging. For 8 per cent. of the takings the privilege of harassing and threatening the people of the community is granted. Undoubtedly such a system will result in a gratifying increase in the number and boldness of mendicants in the streets.

Opera on the Road.

The final results of the recent tour of the Metropolitan Opera Company must leave the promoters of that enterprise in doubt on all points but one. They are quite certain as to the extent of their losses, and there is ample evidence that they cannot expect greater profit from future excursions of the same kind. The experiences of the organization after it left New York supplied no hint as to the best means of undertaking a similar enterprise hereafter were it again deemed feasible to attempt to interest in opera the cities outside of New York.

As Chicago was the centre of the company's operations away from this city the degree of support that the Western metropolis gave to the scheme has its interest. Only once in the four weeks of the company's stay there was the capacious Auditorium filled in every place, and that was for a performance of "Parsifal." Not even the vogue of Signor CARUSO, which showed some signs of depletion during the season at the Metropolitan as well as outside of New York, could awaken sufficient interest in the Italian operas to fill the house. The German representations, although five were crowded into one week, had some degree of success. This visit of the Metropolitan Opera Company to Chicago had the result of decreasing its own proposed season next year from twenty weeks to ten. It will depend on Chicago's support of this local enterprise next year whether or not it will deserve to be ranked with such smaller cities as Boston and Philadelphia in its artistic tastes. The support of wealthy citizens will not suffice to establish opera in a town, indispensable as it may be to such an effort. There must also be a response from the public at large.

There were few lessons to learn from the experience of the company in other cities. Milwaukee, which is accounted a German city and therefore may be expected to support its German opera very feebly, did little more, however, when the best forces of the troupe were put forward in "Aida," and the receipts did not cover the costs of the performance. It was possible always in the past to praise the Northwest's generous support of music and deplore the lack of such interest in the South. This year the St. Paul auditorium, seating 7,000 persons, was crowded for every representation of the company, but in Atlanta, which is perhaps Southern only in its geographical position, five performances drew $70,000; so honors are easy in that respect this year, although there is no section of the United States which in reality supports music in all its forms so generously as the Northwest.

From these varied results it is not possible to draw any conclusion of value in reference to the attitude of the public outside New York toward opera. That it is generally too indifferent to support it to the extent that so costly an enterprise requires seems, however, well established. The Metropolitan Opera Company has at all events chosen to draw that moral from its losses on the road, and hereafter the itineraries are to be less elaborate.

There must be something radically wrong with the examination system at Annapolis when a class of young men who have already passed the test at their graduation go to sea for two years only to find on their return that practically half of them are rejected and presumably retired to private life. It would appear to the unprejudiced observer that either the graduating examination was very imperfect or the subsequent examination two years later was needlessly severe, or else that the boys during the cruise were not intelligently guided and kept up to their work. We see no other way of accounting for it, though of course we should like to be enlightened if mistaken.

More than passing interest attaches to the dedication in the little town of Spencer in Massachusetts to-day of a monument to three inventors who carried the fame of the village far and wide. The first was ELIAS HOWE, Jr., the inventor of the sewing machine. Less well known are the names of his uncles, WILLIAM and TYLER HOWE. Yet it was the former who by the invention of the truss bridge and by skilful engineering work conquered the Connecticut River and made possible a railroad from Boston to the West. TYLER HOWE earned his share of the gratitude of his fellow men by the invention of the spring bed. After many years of delay the town of Spencer, aided by many neighboring Worcester county villages, is to do honor to the memory of these three admirable exponents of the justly famous Yankee ingenuity whose triumphs brought it both fame and prosperity.

Of the fifty-one Conservatives in the new French Chamber of Deputies no less than thirty-seven come from those provinces in the west where since the days of the French Revolution royalism has made its strongest stand. Thus Brittany sends ten, Normandy fourteen, and Maine and Anjou together eight. The remaining five also come from Departments situated in the district made famous by the old Vendée rebellion. Of the remaining fourteen, five come from French Flanders and three from the aristocratic quarters of Paris; Lorraine sends one, and the rest represent widely scattered districts in the south about the Cevennes Mountains. While it would be easy to exaggerate the significance of this geographical detail, it is no less evident that the royalist party is now almost completely confined to a few western Departments, and even here, the returns of the recent election indicate that it is a waning cause.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT.

Is He a "Concrete Expression of the American Spirit"?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The dictum of a devotee of Mr. Roosevelt in to-day's SUN that he is "the concrete expression of the American spirit" would if accepted class him in his era with Washington, Lincoln, Cromwell, Napoleon or Michelangelo in theirs.

That he is the concrete expression of an American spirit is undeniable, and it is upon this embodiment rather than upon his standing as a Christian, moralist, teacher or statesman that his future fame must rest.

In his controversy with the Vatican it was shown that this limitation was understood there if nowhere else and that in consequence it deliberately set its face against methods which had previously proved irresistible in every field of human activity in his own country save those over which it still exercises full control.

The American spirit of which Mr. Roosevelt is admittedly the idealization is that which from lowly and somewhat ignoble surroundings has mounted in the space of his own life to the loftiest realms of power and influence.

It is the modern spirit or Frankenstein of the "art and science of advertising." No longer confined to sermons in stone along the wayside or to obscure corners in the newspapers in praise of nostrums for bodily ills, it has gradually climbed the heights, till it now dominates almost every branch of trade and of art.

From this situation it was Mr. Roosevelt who then, with the best of intentions, made it the handmaiden of Government itself to fashion its laws according to his conception of the needs of the times, with the incidental gain to himself of a worldwide reputation.

In the chanties of this epoch may be found a brief exposition of the spirit of its time. The minnesingers who with paint pot and scaling ladder adorned the rocks and palings from the Atlantic to the Pacific used to sing:

He who by his biz would rise
Must either boost or advertise.

Later on:

This biz
Knocks biz.

And the final epic:

He who to greatest heights would rise
Must either quit or Rooseveltize.

NEW YORK, May 18. J. P. D.

The Comet.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In the Orient it will be regarded as a very notable circumstance that the ruler of the greatest monarchy in the world passed away as soon as the great comet came near the earth. The Sabeans believed that a comet was fatal to the lives of great rulers, and the Prophet of Arabia instituted special prayers and prostrations to be made at the appearance of a comet. At the present time in all parts of the Moslem world the people are in the greatest state of religious excitement and assemble in their mosques for prayer.

Even in Tom Hood's day the appearance of a comet was a matter of some consternation, as the student of his poems will remember. In his verses on "The Comet, an Astrological Anecdote," he humorously depicts the alarm of a country lumpkin at the appearance of the celestial visitor:

A comet! sure as I'm alive!
A noble one as I should wish to view!
It can't be Halley's, though? That is not due
Till eighteen thirty five.

Then John looks up with his "portentous eyes" and thinks it must be a rocket from Vauxhall Gardens. The poet replies:

A rocket! John, far from it!
What you behold, John, is a comet,
One of those most eccentric things
That in all ages
Have puzzled sages
And frightened kings.

With fear of change that flaming meteor, John,
Perplexes sovereigns throughout its range.
Do he? cried John.
Well, let him flare on,
I haven't got no sovereigns to change.

It does not appear that any ruler suffered at the appearance of Halley's comet seventy-five years ago. ORIENTALIST.

NEW YORK, May 18.

PARLIAMENTARY CRISIS IN DENMARK.

In the larger excitements of the last few weeks no notice has been taken here, and next to none in Europe, of the existence of a parliamentary crisis in Denmark. Even before the death of King Edward such matters as the British constitutional dispute, the French elections, the progress of Colonel Roosevelt, Egyptian unrest and Albanian insurrection gave the world enough to talk about without coming down to the troubles of Prime Minister Zahle with the Rigsdag, the Legislature which sits in Copenhagen.

The fact, however, is that to-morrow, Friday, while King Frederik VIII. is following the body of his brother-in-law to its last resting place at Windsor, his people will be voting for the members of a new Folkething or House of Commons, the second to be chosen within a year. An odd analogy to the condition of politics in Great Britain is traceable in the circumstance that the burning issue is quasi-constitutional, involving the readjustment of legislative power in favor of the masses of the people.

It was about the middle of April that Th. Zahle, the Premier, found himself in a political impasse. His bills for the reform of the Parliament and the franchise had been defeated in the Folkething. He faced the alternative of resigning or recommending to the King a dissolution of the House. He chose the latter course because he believed no leader would undertake to form a Ministry under the existing conditions, and should a Ministry be formed it could not last more than a few months and could realize no programme in the interval. The recent Folkething consisted of twenty Socialists, twenty Radicals, thirty-one Liberals, twenty-seven Reformists (centre group), nineteen Rightists (Conservatives) and one Independent. Thus while the left or "progressist" element included a great majority of the chamber it was so split up into factions, each controlled by irreconcilable obstinacy, that legislation was impossible.

Zahle himself had only held office for six months, and his Ministry was the third within a year. The previous general election took place in May, 1909, when Premier N. J. Neergard appealed to the people for a mandate on the question of the national defence. There was a most extraordinary cleavage of opinion among the members of the Folkething upon this subject. The Radical and Socialist groups demanded disarmament pure and simple, the suppression of the army and the abandonment of all work of defence. Their argument was that Denmark, being unable to organize an absolutely effective defensive force, might as well throw herself on the generosity of her neighbors; that is to say, in the last analysis, upon the mercy of Germany. All the other parliamentary groups believed in living up to the spirit of the national treaties with the various Powers of Europe; they favored the organization of a defence system as efficient as the resources of the country would permit. These groups, though having a majority in the Folkething, could not enforce their will in legislation because they were hopelessly divided upon a detail. The Reformists, headed by J. C. Christensen, and the followers of Neergard split on the question whether or not the fortifications of Copenhagen on the land side should be reconstructed and strengthened. The breach could not be healed; legislation was at a standstill, and Neergard decided upon a dissolution.

The result of that election, a year ago, was in no way decisive. There was more or less shifting of votes between the parliamentary groups, but none of them secured anything like an ascendency. Neergard found himself in control of only forty-four votes out of the 114 that make up the Folkething. He attempted to form a coalition with Christensen, but so many of the followers of each deserted that they still found themselves in a minority. Neergard then resigned, on August 2, and Count Holstein-Ledreborg was called upon to form a Ministry.

The Count allied himself with both Neergard and Christensen, making the former Minister of Finance and the latter Minister of Defence. The admission of Christensen to the Cabinet at once stirred up a popular tumult on account of his supposed responsibility for the stupendous P. A. Alberti frauds revealed in 1908, by which the Government and the depositors of the Zealand Peasants Savings Bank lost a sum said to have amounted to $5,000,000. Christensen was compelled to resign on October 18, and four days later Holstein himself was obliged to relinquish the Government.

He had used the fifty days of his tenure of office to good advantage. On September 24 he had passed through the Parliament a bill embodying a scheme of national defence. It revised the system of military service so as to place the army on a peace footing of 11,000 men thoroughly equipped, with a war efficiency of 58,000 men this year, to be raised to 70,000 in the near future. The theoretical war possibility of the country is about 83,000 men. The seaward defences of Copenhagen were to be strengthened and the landward defences were to be allowed to remain unchanged until 1922; but two great forts nominally classed as sea works were understood to be really effective additions to the land works. An appropriation of about $8,750,000 was made for fortifications, torpedo boats and submarines, and an increase of $625,000 a year in the military expenditure of the kingdom was provided for.

After Count Holstein-Ledreborg came Zahle. He was the leader of the Radical group, and his is the first Radical Ministry that Denmark has ever had. He was made Premier because nobody more conservative or moderate could be got to take the post after the breakdown of the Holstein coalition. Zahle and his associates came in like lions. Cable despatches to THE SUN in the latter part of last October told how they opened their career with a plan to abolish all titles and orders. They refused to be styled "excellency" and they announced that they would not wear court uniforms. They talked of impeaching Christensen and two other former Ministers for collusion in the Alberti frauds. It was intimated that they would allow the defence law to become a dead letter.

Naturally with the Folkething subdivided all these projects were abortive. The only members who would work with the Radicals were the Socialists—they not always; and with 40 votes in a total of 114 Zahle and his colleagues were impotent. The end came when he introduced his legislative reform bills. One of these aimed at the reform of the Landsthing or upper chamber, which is made up of sixty-six members, twelve nominated for life by the King and fifty-four elected for eight year terms, half every four years, by an indirect system which gives property owners, large taxpayers and the rural districts an altogether disproportionate preponderance. Zahle's reform scheme widened the field both of eligibility for membership and of voting capacity; it would to a large extent have popularized the body. His bill for reform of the Folkething was simply a reapportionment measure giving the cities and large towns increased representation at the expense of the country, a change which would be certain to increase the strength of the Socialist and Radical groups.

The vote by which these measures were beaten in the Folkething was actually 40 to 66. The dissolution followed immediately.

Experts in Danish politics think that as to-morrow's election is to hinge on a purely political question the result will be more satisfactory than that of last year. They think that if the two ultra left or Radical and Socialist groups are to get a majority of the chamber there is a fair chance of one of the moderate groups, the Liberals or the Centre, getting so large a representation that it will be able to dominate the anti-radical elements and form a Ministry with some degree of stability.

WHERE HAS IT GONE?

A Trifle of $240,000,000 Taken From the Railroads and Lost to the Consumer.

From a speech by R. F. Yoakum before the national convention of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union.

The cost of food, coal, clothing, &c., has advanced since 1898 an average of 44 per cent. In other words it requires $1.44 today to purchase the same goods that $1 would purchase ten years ago. The difference of $440 on $1,000 means a great deal to a great many people. They must find a way to increase their income or decrease their cost of living. Transportation has not contributed to the increased cost of living, as freight rates have steadily been reduced; neither have reductions in freight rates benefited the consumers.

Through reductions in rates made by the Interstate Commerce Commission, State railroad commissions and legislative acts railroad earnings are now $240,000,000 less annually than they would be if the rates of 1898 were in effect. It has been stated in public speeches that this $240,000,000 taken from the railroads was that much gain to the public. To contradict this statement and show that the consumer did not benefit by reductions in rates it is only necessary for you to compare your bills now and in past years. You pay no less for your clothes, your shoes, your hats, your household furniture, your farming implements, &c. On the other hand rates are only 20 per cent. of what they averaged from 1880 to 1890.

This $240,000,000 taken from the railroad earnings went to the dealers, who saved that amount on the goods and commodities sold to consumers and who charged you just as much as or more than you paid for the same goods before.

One of the subjects upon which the politician creates prejudice against the railroads is the so-called burden placed upon the people through the overissuance of securities. Two hundred and forty million dollars a year is 4 per cent. on $6,000,000,000, which is 43 per cent. of the total capitalization of the railroads of the United States. This extra profit of $240,000,000 a year to the dealers is just as great a burden as if paid for legitimate increase of capitalization used in new construction and improvement of train service to handle your business, only it is paid out in a different form. The thing the railroad and the consumer are jointly interested in is the fact that under present political methods of doing business the railroad stands the loss of its revenue and the consumer does not get it. Recent legislation has been in the interest of the comparatively few of the country's population who live on the profits between the producer and the consumer, and all they get through freight reductions is that much added to their profits.

I believe in railroad legislation. I am opposed to excessive capitalization. I am opposed also to legislation that places future construction in the hands of existing companies, which will be against the best welfare of our agricultural interests, handicap every farmer who has not convenient transportation facilities, and continue idle the many million acres of good land remote from railroads.

Legislative investigating committees will not solve the question of cost of living. Such committees are political, and politics will influence their deliberations. The cost of living will never be too great in this country when products can go direct from the railroad station to the consumer at near first cost.

THE BOY.

One Bad Boy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have a boy who has absolutely no respect for law, order, property or peace. He destroys the quietness of the house and the neighborhood at all hours. He ruthlessly smashes all kinds of property that comes to his hands—books, papers, glassware. He has no table manners or politeness. He has repeatedly struck his mother in the face, as violently as his strength permitted. He is addicted to drink and never knows when he has enough; and yet his mother and I think he is fine as he is, and dread the day when he gets old enough to write fool letters for the newspapers—like this. His age? Not quite a year yet.

JAMAICA, L. I., May 17. G. W. SCHOONMAKER.

The Boy's First Rights.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Much is heard these days of the "rights" of children. Do those who use the phrase so glibly ever stop long enough to think that the most sacred right of childhood is to a good upbringing, and that to a comprehension of our duty to God and man the first step is the acquirement of obedience? I know I am using an obsolete term, that "liberty" has displaced the older word; yet somehow I still feel in my antiquated and old fashioned soul that obedience is the beginning of wisdom and righteousness. The Ten Commandments are a charter of obedience; but come to think, they too have been called in question by the moderns.

BROOKLYN, May 17. D. G.

Where Generosity Stops.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The present discussion of the modern boy in your columns makes me think that the present day parent loves his child so much that he will do everything for him—except what is right! G. I. B.

BROOKLYN, May 17.

Did Alexander Hamilton Write Washington's Farewell Address?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I observe in THE SUN of Tuesday that the usually accurate Springfield *Republican* explicitly asserts that "Alexander Hamilton wrote President Washington's farewell address."

But the Hon. William C. Rives, the eminent statesman and author, demonstrated that the immortal manifesto is essentially, in every feature of substance and style, the production of the illustrious Virginian whose signature it bears.

See "The Life and Times of James Madison," Vol. 3, page 578, note.

NEW YORK, May 18. ROGER A. PRYOR.

Denial From the President of the University of Chicago.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Recent press despatches attribute to me in an address the statement that "the present age is the most decadent in history, with the exception of the days just before the fall of the Roman Empire and before the French Revolution." I did not make that statement. Such a generalization would be idle at best. I do not believe it to be true, and did not assert it. HENRY PRATT JUDSON.

CHICAGO, May 16.

Card from the Flat Earth Astronomer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Look at the comet, sun, moon and stars and the light they throw on the facts in flat earth astronomy. The sun moves above the earth each day along its path of thirty two miles north to south in its vertical rays.

Awake all your wise young men to know flat earth astronomy is to prevail. THALES.

BOSTON, Mass., May 18.

An Anniversary.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It may interest your readers to learn that the "Return from Elba" procession is to culminate on our shores on June 18, the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The next date to be looked up is that of "Yours for St. Helena." V. DE G.

HIGHWOOD, N. J., May 18.

THE INCOME TAX VOTE.

Some Doubt as to Whether the Assembly Can Pass on the Question Again.

ALBANY, May 18.—A determined effort will be made in the Assembly to have that body go on record again on the income tax proposition on the plea that Senator Davenport's resolution indorsing the Taft income tax scheme is worded differently than was the Murray resolution which failed to pass the Assembly by one vote and which vote the Assembly refused to reconsider, thus effectually killing the scheme in the Assembly for this session it was thought. The Assembly Rules Committee is unalterably opposed to the income tax, and as this committee frames the legislative schedule each day it is not seen how the Davenport resolution can come to a flat vote in the Assembly. The Rules Committee is composed of Speaker Wadsworth, Assemblymen Merritt, J. S. Phillips and Conklin, Republicans, who voted against the Murray income tax resolution, and Frisbie and Oliver, Democrats, who voted for it.

Both Senator Davenport and Senator Newcomb, who opposed the resolution, say that the Assembly can pass on the question again if the Rules Committee will permit the Davenport resolution to go before the Assembly, because the phraseology of the Davenport resolution is different from the Murray resolution.

Others insist that the difference in phraseology is of no moment and that as the Assembly has already passed upon the substance of the resolution the income tax question cannot again be considered in the Assembly this year. It seemed to be the general opinion that it was up to the Assembly Committee on Rules to determine whether the Assembly could have another vote on the income tax question.

EXCISE BILLS PUT OVER AGAIN.

Not Enough Members Present to Insure Their Passage.

ALBANY, May 18.—Speaker Wadsworth said to-day that he regretted the laxity this week in the attendance of members. Assemblyman Conklin of New York has had to put over the State Excise Department's bills two or three times during the last two weeks because there were not enough members present to insure their passage. Mr. Conklin again had the bills put over, to-day until Tuesday next. Mr. Conklin appealed to the Speaker to enforce the rule of attendance. He insisted that while the excise bills were being delayed there was a campaign being waged to defeat them. Speaker Wadsworth notified the sergeant at arms of the Assembly to telegraph members to be in their seats next week. The Assembly is ready to adjourn on May 26.

Assemblyman Artemas Ward, Jr., lacked a dozen votes to pass one of his series of election reform bills, aimed to give qualified electors the right to challenge voters. In the Assembly to-day the bill was defeated.

The Assembly passed Mr. Boshart's bill prohibiting the shipping of calves under four weeks of age; Senator Davis's bill pensioning employees of State Hospitals for the Insane; Assemblyman Fowler's bill making it a misdemeanor for any person to swear falsely as to the age of a child seeking employment and compelling proper ventilation for employees in mercantile establishments, and Senator Cobb's bill giving State employees two weeks vacation.

Senator Alt (Rep., Brooklyn) introduced a bill protesting against the removal of certain encroachments on streets in New York city. The bill provides that if the front or other exterior wall of any building that has stood for twenty years or more shall extend not more than ten inches upon any street, avenue or public place the wall shall not be removable unless an action or proceeding for the removal of the wall is instituted by the city or its successor within one year after the passage of this act. Notice of pendency of such action or proceeding must be filed in the office of the Clerk of the county and indexed against the owner of the premises, as in the case of the filing of a mechanic's lien. This protection is not to extend to the encroachment of a wall erected after the destruction or removal of any such wall. The bill was ordered to a third reading and referred to the Cities Committee.

HEARING ON THE RACING BILLS.

Counsel for the Jockey Club Appears Before the Assembly Rules Committee.

ALBANY, May 18.—Two of the series of the Agnew-Perkins and oral betting bills which have passed the Senate are in the Assembly Rules Committee, and Speaker Wadsworth to-day accorded Joseph S. Auerbach of the Jockey Club a final opportunity to discuss these bills before that committee. The Rules Committee seldom gives opportunity to any one on the outside to argue before it, but Mr. Auerbach was so insistent that Speaker Wadsworth thought in all fairness the courtesy should be extended to the representative of the interests chiefly affected. At the same time the committee invited Assemblyman Perkins of Broome and Canon Chase, who with Senator Agnew are pushing the bills hardest upon the Legislature, to attend to-day's hearing.

Mr. Auerbach criticised all of the Agnew-Perkins bills, and especially the bill aimed to prevent oral betting and amended to affect takers of all wagers "written or otherwise." Mr. Auerbach maintained that while the framers of these bills were insisting that they did not affect the making of friendly wagers there was no certainty that the courts would not construe wagers made in writing "or otherwise" as gambling under a correct interpretation of the law. Mr. Auerbach insisted that the bills as a whole were far fetched, ridiculously drawn, unnecessary, and an unconstitutional attack upon private property and the rights of private citizens.

Mr. Perkins said there was no desire on the part of the advocates of the bill to hit the individual bettor. Canon Chase got in a word or two in support of the bills.

The Rules Committee will probably report the bills early next week. The advocates of the measures are beginning to get fearful that the delays will be dangerous.

LEGISLATORS HARASSED.

State Officers and Employees Lobbying for and Against Bills.

ALBANY, May 18.—Members of the Legislature have been harassed at times by the importunities of State officers and State employees to favor or vote against pending legislation. Some heads of State departments have been a nuisance during the Hughes regime, interfering with legislators in the respect while the Legislature was in session. Two or three heads of State departments in particular, who imagine that only few they recommend is the best that could possibly be thought out on any particular subject, have been notorious in evidence during the past year and severe! Senators this year have threatened to have them shut off the floor for the remainder of the session.

Assemblyman James Shea (Republican, Essex) has been particularly bothered by the officials and employees of a certain State department lobbying against a pending bill, and he has prepared an amendment to the Penal Code which makes it a misdemeanor for any officer or employee of the State "who within the State or Assembly chamber influences or attempts to influence the action of any member of the Legislature in respect to any bill pending before the Legislature by persuasion, argument, threats or otherwise."