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The Call to the Democracy of the Old Nationalism.

The opportunity presented to the Democratic party by Republican sins and dissensions since the intrusion of Colonel THEODORE ROOSEVELT has not been described in clearer or saner English than this:

"In the campaigns of the past thirty years every Democratic victory of note, of importance, has been won in fighting for tariff reform. Six weeks ago, a month ago, the Democracy was prepared to go into the Congressional campaign this year fighting for genuine tariff reform as opposed to the miserable makeshift of the Payne Aldrich law. And the prospects of success seemed fair, for the Republican party itself was, and is, badly divided on that issue.

"But conditions have changed. The sudden irruption of THEODORE ROOSEVELT into the political arena and the bringing in by him of a totally new issue have changed the entire complexion of the campaign. A new issue has been forced upon the Democratic party and for the time being the fight for tariff reform becomes of secondary importance. In his preposterous doctrine which he styles the new nationalism Mr. ROOSEVELT is leading an attack against the Constitution itself. This attack must be met and turned. Tariff reform is a small matter in comparison, for with the foundations of the Constitution undermined, as Mr. ROOSEVELT'S attack proposes to undermine them, high tariff or low tariff, protection or free trade, will be but meaningless phrases in a country without a government or a solid and responsible foundation for one.

"The attack on the Constitution must be turned at all hazards. Secession predicated the disintegration of the Union with no greater certainty than the application of the remarkable governmental theories that Mr. ROOSEVELT has been preaching in the West. His attack on the Supreme Court was sensational enough, but it was only a preliminary skirmish in the larger attack that he was preparing on the citadel of the Government itself. His theories of centralism aim at the vital part of republican government. It is as true now as it ever was that the State is governed best which is governed least. But Mr. ROOSEVELT proposes to reverse the Constitution and to endow the Federal Government with all the powers not specially reserved to the State, and then to cut into those reservations until we have, not a republic, but all the essentials of an absolute monarchy, save only the hereditary headship of the Government. That is what his 'new nationalism' is aiming at, and that is the issue suddenly thrust upon the Democratic party and the country.

"Democracy stands for tariff reform as firmly as it has ever stood, but the more vital issue of protecting the Constitution from assault demands the best thought of the party leaders. There is no sectionalism in this fight. It is not a fight on party lines such as have been drawn within the memory of the present generation of voters. This is a fight for the preservation of the Government, and it becomes the duty of the Democratic party to lead the van."

The words quoted are those of the veteran editor of the *Utica Observer*, whose more than half a century of honest and patriotic service gives him the right to speak to his party with an authority unsurpassed by that of any other Democrat in this State or elsewhere. Mr. BAILEY is entirely justified in now regarding the tariff question as of secondary importance to the Democracy.

If Colonel ROOSEVELT or a personally selected representative of his radical opinions and destructive intentions shall head a ticket misnamed Republican two years hence the issue will be as defined above. If Colonel ROOSEVELT shall succeed in breaking the Republican party in two and in attaching to his ambitions the extremists of both of the existing organizations, and of course the Socialists, then the same duty and the same opportunity remain to the Democracy of Old Nationalism. Against attempted revolution and progressive imperialism its victory will be certain, whether the old banner is borne by JUDSON HARMON or WOODROW WILSON or WILLIAM J. GAYNOR.

The Original Maryland Progressive.

The people of Maine have made a lamentable mistake in electing a Democratic Governor and Legislature, according to the Hon. CHARLES J. BONAPARTE, the unconscious humorist of President ROOSEVELT'S Cabinet. Mr. BONAPARTE permits himself to say this about the overturn in Maine:

"I am glad that the election in Maine did not take place in Maryland. It is not an occasion for Republicans to be humorous. I feel that the people of Maine are unfortunate now that they will have a Democratic State Government for the next two years."

Time will show whether the people of Maine did not know their business, but we have a conviction that Mr. BONAPARTE is about as familiar with the conditions that impelled them to seek a change of government as he is with the canal system on the planet Mars. If Mr. BONAPARTE is not hilarious about the cataclysm in Maine he is still the unconscious or unconscious humorist. Asked whether he agreed with President TAFT or Colonel ROOSEVELT on national questions he replied:

"I have the best of feeling for President TAFT. Are not TAFT and ROOSEVELT together? I saw the other day that they were riding in the same automobile. We shall have to wait and see whether or not they are together."

Mr. BONAPARTE intimates that he would like to be called a Progressive Republican because Colonel ROOSEVELT prefers the name to that of Insurgent. But the late Attorney-General confesses that he doesn't know if there is any other Insurgent or Progressive in Maryland, unless it be "Mr. MULLIKEN," the Republican candidate for Congress in the Fourth district, "who has tendencies that way." The Hon. Mr. MULLIKEN is not yet on our list of political notables, but he sounds like a Progressive Republican. However, he cannot be as funny and preposterous as the Hon. CHARLES J. BONAPARTE.

Hammerstein in London.

When OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN transfers his energies to London and New York knows him no more, the greatest operatic showman since MAURICE GRAU will have handed over the administration of operatic affairs in this city to a few wealthy amateurs who can afford the luxury of playing at impresarioship. There was nothing in his early training to suggest that Mr. HAMMERSTEIN could ever become a successful manager of opera. How thoroughly he understood the wishes of the public, however, is shown by the companies that will carry on his policy. The same singers, the same operas and every phase of the Hammerstein operatic enterprises have been taken without a change. His successors thus admit that he has gone as far in the direction of novelty and in the discovery of talents as any man could. So his theories are practically to be carried on for a few years longer without any effort to improve on what he has done. There could be no more flattering testimony to Mr. HAMMERSTEIN'S good judgment and sound artistic perceptions.

Just how London will take to a manager of such strongly marked personal characteristics it is not possible to say. He will at least astonish the public. He would be likely to do that anywhere, however, and the success of his opera house will do much toward restoring him to an important position in operatic affairs in this country. Under the terms of his agreement with the Metropolitan Opera Company he is prohibited from giving opera in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago for a term of years. Without an opera house in one of these cities it would be idle to attempt to make a success of a touring company to visit the towns from which he has not been, as he describes it, "banished." With a London theatre under his control, however, his company can travel all over the United States with the prestige of belonging to an opera house in the largest city of the world. We suspect that this is his object, rather than any desire to delight London music lovers, who give every indication of being wholly satisfied with the narrow artistic activity of Covent Garden.

Although he may not come to New York, there are ample opportunities for the former impresario in other cities. The prosperity of his London opera house will mean the restoration of this resourceful manager to this country, if not to New York. So there is every hope for the success that may not longer confine such unusual ability to comic opera or vaudeville. Perhaps Mr. HAMMERSTEIN may again find some works as entertaining to his countrymen as the French field, in which CHARPENTIER, MASSENET, OFFENBACH and DEBUSSY labored.

Squantum.

The Harvard-Boston aviation show justified the faith of its promoters. They were greatly daring, because such enterprises had usually been failures in a financial way, although the most famous flying men exhibited their skill and performed sensational feats. All over France, where the aeroplane in motion attracts thousands of spectators and the names of successful aviators are known in every household, expenses, including guarantees and prizes, have been generally in excess of receipts. In England and Scotland the promoters have had much the same experience, and until the show at Squantum was given there had been little or no money in American aviation meets, except for a few of the performers.

Boston seems to have risen superior to untoward conditions. There was a big "gate" at Squantum. In that part of the country the aeroplane was a novelty, and everybody seems to have turned out to see it. Curious Boston swarmed to the field by scores of thousands, and the people could not have enough of flying, either as a spectacle or a sport. Boston has always been unsophisticated in its love of sport and cheerfully pays its dollars for the real thing. Perhaps this accounts for the remarkable success of the Squantum meet. It does not follow that it can be repeated elsewhere. At the same time Boston seems to have started a "boom" in aviation, and as the programme for the international show on Long Island next month will be rich in attractions and some of the most eminent foreigners will compete with the WRIGHTS and GLENN CURTISS and other American favorites, we should not be astonished to see even Squantum surpassed.

Mr. GRAHAME-WHITE'S performances and his prize money stand out conspicuously in the Boston record, and no sportsman will begrudge him his good fortune. The Englishman is a hard worker in the new profession, alert to grasp opportunities, and daring to a fault. American aviators may learn some lessons from him without humbling themselves. If they want to excel in speed, for instance, they must add the monoplane to their racing outfits. In possessing an aeroplane of this type GRAHAME-WHITE had an advantage that no skill or experience could overcome. The richest prize of the meet, offered for the fastest flight to Boston Light and back, went to him really by default. The speed shown by his monoplane was almost a mile a minute, and his two flights were made with such comparative ease that there seemed to be no peril in the venture. Provided with monoplanes to which they were accustomed the American flying men would have exhibited equal proficiency and nonchalance, and there would have been a competition worth going many miles to see.

Although there were a hundred or more ascensions, all told, at Boston, no serious accident occurred. WILBUR WRIGHT, CURTISS, BROOKINS and JOHNSTONE, as well as GRAHAME-WHITE, handled the aeroplane with such admirable control of its idiosyncrasies as to produce the effect of perfect security in the air at any height. If any demonstration were needed of the serviceableness of the biplane as a general utility machine it was given in full measure by the American aviators. The Squantum meet made the aeroplane familiar as no other show in America had done. To aviation it certainly gave an impetus that advanced it well toward the domain of the practicable.

Woodrow Wilson.

The Democratic State convention of New Jersey is expected to name WOODROW WILSON for Governor to-day. No man has concealed his opinions less. What he thinks of the reserved rights of the States and of the proper exercise of the functions of the Federal Government; his views upon the relations of capital and labor, and his attitude toward industrial combinations, are plain upon the printed page. According to the partisan point of view he would be a strong or a vulnerable candidate, but men of independent minds are likely to be attracted to him on account of his high ideals, his standards of public duty and his frankness and sincerity. It would be a nomination on the same plane as that of Judge SIMEON E. BALDWIN in Connecticut.

The Sorrow of the Hon. Epaphroditus Johnson.

Seldom has sorrow trickled into simpler and nobler expression than dripped from an honest heart in Parsippany yesterday. The Hon. EPAPHRODITUS JOHNSON, secretary-treasurer of the Colored Men's Fowler and Currency Reform Club, had lingered in the village all day, waiting and hoping for better news from the primaries. When the last hope was gone the old man turned to a reporter and said mournfully, "Say, boss, is de banks open any more?" For FOWLER, the maker of money, the father of the currency, the author of banking, the restorer of the gold standard—FOWLER had been the victim of the too eager affection of his fellow Republicans in the Fifth Congress district.

The dull figures of the returns are bright with this romantic attachment. Wherever Mr. FOWLER was best known, there was the tenderest solicitude to keep him at home, among his admirers, his beneficiaries, the grateful, the adoring people of Elizabeth. The country's loss is Union county's gain.

To few statesmen has such a vote of confidence been given. Yet what will be the effect? How will the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street stand the shock? Not a bourse in the world that will not feel the wind of this blow given to Finance FOWLER. In the souks of Tunis, in the fonduks of the Sudan, among the black tents of the Bedouins, in windy gorges of the Alps and Apennines, on the eaves of the Himalayas and the Andes, among the honey eaters of the Andamans, the great news when it comes will bring wonder and consternation. Will there be any more money? Will prices rise or fall?

Glorious if dangerous power of genius! It may not be too much to say that the value of digging sticks among the Urabunna, of fishskin suits among the Ostyaks, of blubber among the Eskimos, of Toda butter and New England rum may be affected by the approaching removal from Washington of the most illustrious living financier except Coin HARVEY.

It may be that the discovery of gold was but a negligible event in world economy by the side of the loss of Currency CHARLES. For the moment let us not worry, but think of the devotion of Elizabeth, of the impetus to literature and library science. If FOWLER leaves the marble halls of Washington, the gracious cloisters of the Fowler Library will be his fitter, his more splendid home, and he can take up his life work, "The History and Dictionary of Billingsgate."

At once conservative and progressive, patient under misrepresentation and detraction, WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT has set an example of official fidelity and pure patriotism to all his successors in the Presidency.—*From the Connecticut Republican platform.*

As no Insurgent Republican admits that any one can be conservative and progressive, this description of President TAFT will not be applauded in Indiana, where Mr. TAFT was damned with faint praise by a Republican convention, but every fair minded man knows that the tribute is no more than Mr. TAFT deserves and no less than he should receive from every convention of his party.

After having been worked for eight hundred years the silver mines of the Freiberg district in Saxony have been closed owing to the depreciation in the value of silver. The Saxon Government, which has managed them as a State monopoly for two hundred years, has decided that it is not worth while to keep on smelting, as nearly all the ore that comes to the refineries has to be imported.

The first records of metallurgical industry on the Freiberg side of the Erzgebirge go back to 1162. Since that time, so far as the books show, nearly $250,000,000 worth of silver has been taken out of the mines, not reckoning the smaller amounts of gold, copper and tin nor the lead by-products. A mining school that ranks among the first in the world has made the town famous, in which one ingenious process of ore extraction after another has been evolved in the struggle for existence that science has profited by.

Freiberg, however, can no longer hold out against richer mines that can produce silver more cheaply. The distinctive industry of the old cathedral city disappears and Germany loses its chief practical laboratory for metallurgy. The Bohemian Joachimsthal across the mountains, which gave out the first dollar, might be in the same case had it not been for the fortunate discovery of radium in its mines.

THE GREAT MORAL REVOLUTION IN ERIE COUNTY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The articles in THE SUN on the Erie county situation and its high minded boss, who has harkened to the spirit of reform, have aroused both interest and amusement in Buffalo.

As we understand it sixty-one delegates chosen in the old way by designation of the party leaders, ratified by the Assembly district conventions, will carry the message to Saratoga that Erie county is unanimously in favor of direct primaries. The curious thing about the situation is that the rank and file of the Republican party of Erie county have not been permitted to share in this virtuous uprising. The district committeemen of Erie county, one from each election district, have not met officially within the memory of man. The general committee of Erie county, one man from each ward, meets once a year, elects officers and adjourns.

At the annual meeting of 1908 a resolution was offered by general committeeman Frank Standart of the Sixteenth Ward in favor of direct primaries. This was referred to a committee and has never been acted upon. Under our party rules and sections 45 and 71 of the general election law Erie county could now nominate its city and county officers and its delegates to State conventions at the primaries. What an impressive spectacle it would be if Erie county could send to Saratoga sixty-one delegates chosen by direct primaries to point out the wisdom and urge the enactment of a compulsory direct primary law! Conversely, it appears that our local bosses do not trust us to send delegates who will join in the uprising in our own behalf.

Our revolution in Erie county needs no Declaration of Independence to precede the drawing of the sword, for our Jefferson and Washington, our army and navy, government and public opinion are conveniently and compactly consolidated in one small dark person.

HAMILTON WARD.

BUFFALO, September 13.

APPLEJACK.

Most Glorious of Jersey Poets, It Has Suppressed Some Mediocre Verse.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The announcement referred to in to-day's SUN that the manufacture of applejack is to be abandoned in Sussex county, New Jersey, has excited mingled sentiments of incredulity and regret. The subject abounds with poetical suggestion, and it recalls to my mind an incident in the career of William Cullen Bryant.

In his old age Mr. Bryant wrote an elaborate piece of verse entitled "The Planting of the Apple Tree." This poem will not be found in his collected works. For some reason or other he deemed it unworthy of permanent preservation. It has been conjectured that this reason might be found in the subsequent publication of a parody by George Arnold. His "The Drinking of the Applejack" was the death knell of Bryant's "The Planting of the Apple Tree." I quote the first and last stanzas:

Come, let us drink the applejack!
Cut the tough lemon with the blade:
Hot let the water then be made:
There gently pour the liquor; there
Sift the white sugar in with care,
And mix them all as gingerly
As poets mingle rhythmic feet
To print in some aesthetic sheet:
So mix we the applejack.

"Who barrelled this old applejack?"
The bibbers of that distant day
This to some aged sport shall say:
And fingering his goblet's stem,
The gray haired sage shall answer them:
"A poet of Jersey fame was he,
Born in the heavy drinking times:
'Tis said he made some quaint old rhymes
On drinking of the applejack!"

The fate of Mr. Bryant's poem was not unlike that of Alfred Tennyson's celebrated "Riflemen's Song," which appeared at about the same time. This poem was prompted by an outburst of popular feeling in England against France when the volunteer movement first acquired popularity in Great Britain. The refrain was "Form! Form! Riflemen, form!" and the first stanza was as follows:

There is a sound of thunder afar.
Storm in the south that darkens the day.
Storm of battle and thunder of war.
Well, if it do not roll our way.
Storm, storm! Riflemen form!
Ready! Be ready to meet the storm!
Riflemen, riflemen, riflemen form!

The poet laureate does not seem to have been any more willing to perserve this effusion than was Mr. Bryant to perpetuate the memory of "The Planting of the Apple Tree." "The Rifleman's Song" was also killed by a parody which read like this, being addressed by the author to Alfred Tennyson:

There's a little trash just from your quill
A halting, wild, spasmodic display.
Ground, no doubt, from a rhyme making mill:
Alfred, why do you write in this way?
Don't, don't! Tennyson, don't!
You'll really oblige us, sir, if you won't:
Tennyson, Tennyson, Tennyson, don't!

In reckoning the services of applejack to mankind its agency in suppressing poetry of questionable merit should not be forgotten.

JOHANNES POMUM.

BROOKLYN, September 13.

Tipple of the Muses.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I salute the joy of youth, the companion of maturity and the consolation of old age:

Though demagogues bang
And quacks quacksquack,
They may go hang
Give applejack!

JONATHAN BURR.

PRINCETON, N. J., September 14.

The Unknown Friend of Man.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I do not find in any almanac or catalogue of saints and benefactors of the world the name, bright and venerable, of the man who invented or discovered applejack. Who was he? Why do not temples and monuments enshrine his fame?

N. D.

LYNN, Mass., September 13.

Mereis Transferred From Sussex.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The editorial article in to-day's SUN is about right. While some of the apple distilleries of Sussex have adopted the less expensive method of cider making, the apple growers are carting their apples over the line to Morris county and having the product distilled in applejack.

APPLES.

LAYSONS, N. J., September 13.

Wet Days of Old.

From the "History of Applejack."

Everybody drank pure old "apple" in those times when everything had to be done by main strength. Even the good wife had her private bottle to prolong the pastoral call and to prevent that "tired feeling" so prevalent at the present day.

Conservation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is there any way in which Oyster Bay could conserve its own natural resources of language?

INQUIRER.

HACKETTSTOWN, N. J., September 14.

The Manhattan Philosopher on Harmonious Socks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One of your correspondents asks what colored stockings he should wear at the opera. I advise him to wear socks of the very loudest color he can get, as no opera singer these days thinks he is singing unless he shouts and bellows like a bull.

NEW YORK, September 14.

E. H. J.

CLUBS.

Some Principles That Underlie the Privileges of Their Members.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* For many reasons it is unfortunate that there exists no codification of club laws; but these associations of gentlemen are in themselves so guided by unwritten as well as written laws that nothing of the sort has ever been held necessary. However, there are several leading cases in England, and one, Loubat vs. the Union Club, in America, and these uniformly maintain such principles as almost any club member will concede.

A club is an organization where the minority rules; that is to say that the will of the majority cannot set aside the rules of that club whether written or unwritten. Again, a club has no right to expel a member at its discretion. So long as a member infringes upon no written or unwritten law of the club he cannot be disciplined.

The corollary to this rule is that on a question as to what is an "unwritten law" of the club nothing less than the unanimous decision of the club can decide.

So eminently is this recognized that it is the custom of a club member, finding himself in a minority of one, to resign voluntarily his membership in preference to compelling the enforcement of this rule.

In Loubat vs. the Union Club, Mr. Loubat elected to enforce this rule in the courts. After enforcing it in the courts he of course immediately resigned.

Club membership is an extremely narrow privilege. Out of an immense eligibility the choice of members is narrowed by the severest tests. Even after these tests have been satisfied the successful candidate's name is publicly posted in the clubhouse so that any member may object to his admission; nay, more, is expected out of his loyalty to his club to object if he knows or suspects or has any cause to suspect, even from unauthenticated rumor, that the otherwise successful candidate is or may in future become undesirable as a member.

Once elected, however, the member cannot be denied the privileges of the club unless he infringes some written or unwritten law of the club. Within the rules of the club he cannot be denied access to any portion of the premises occupied by the club. He would even be entitled to insist upon admission to a room in the club occupied by a private banquet. He would not of course, by unwritten law, be entitled to sit and partake of the banquet unless he had been invited by the giver of that particular banquet, and had, in case of a subscription banquet, paid his share of the subscription, any more than he would be entitled to eat some other person's dinner at a table in a restaurant; but he could not be denied admission to the room in which the banquet was held if it were one of the rooms belonging to the club or rented by its funds.

Applying these principles to a late notable case it follows:

1. That a guest of the club is a guest of the whole club.

2. That a guest of the club could not accept the invitation of the club with a condition that certain members or a certain member of the club should or should not be present.

3. A guest of a club who should stipulate that upon any given occasion a certain member of that club should not be present, or an officer of a club who should refuse, whether at that guest's dictation or upon any pretext whatever, to permit the presence upon the club premises of any member of that club, would either of them be a violator of club law—the guest as an outsider, which would make his offence negligible and a mere matter of taste, the officer of the club as an infringer of both written and unwritten club law, and therefore deserving of expulsion.

CLUBMAN.

SOUTH ORANGE, N. J., September 14.

THE ARCTIC BEAR IN THE ZOO.

A Protest Against Its Treatment and Against Animal Collections.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I hope I am only one of many who read with intense indignation and disgust recent articles describing the cruel and barbarous treatment of the Arctic bear presented to the zoo.

Few people of intelligence and feeling, I fancy, have reached mature years without coming to the conclusion that the practice of keeping wild animals caged for exhibition under conditions utterly foreign to them will pass away in years to come, banished by advancing enlightenment and civilization. The plea of its educational value, which appears now to be the only real excuse made for it, will hardly avail when so overwhelmingly overbalanced by the obvious blunting of the sensibilities that must result when people can observe unmoved these poor captives.

Certainly the menagerie side of the circus has waned, and while no doubt it will take many years to bring about the banishment of such collections as the zoo, yet I firmly believe that such will be the result of "humane education" in its best sense. However, in the meantime let there be an end of such exhibitions of cruelty and inhumanity as this incarceration of the unfortunate polar bear.

Here is a huge savage animal undergoing the untold torture of capture, captivity and transportation to a climate painfully unlike his native haunts. If there is no kinder fate for him than to be added to the poor creatures caged for exhibition to ignorant children and undeveloped adults until death releases him, let his sufferings at least not be increased by such brutal treatment as this captive received at the hands of his keepers.

That hideous hurry to present him as a spectacle to the gaping Sunday crowds in his first unsubdued savage rage and fury, his utter craze of fear and hatred, how can that be excused in these enlightened days of nature study and wild animal lore?

It made me burn to read such an account and to know that such things were permitted at the New York zoo, and I think there should be public censure for such barbarous methods. Why should not the S. P. C. A. exercise some supervision over these poor dumb brutes who add the sufferings of a savage wildness to all the other woes of our domesticated creatures?

FRANCES WORTHINGTON.

LITCHFIELD, Conn., September 14.

Corea's Value to Japan.

Figures recently published by the Japanese Ministry of Finance give the population of Corea as 12,965,001 natives, 143,046 Japanese and 11,291 foreigners. There is plenty of room for very many more people, as the country is 600 miles long by 135 miles broad. Its parallels are about the same as from Concord, N. H., to Wilmington, N. C.

The Japan Sea divides Corea from Japan, whose southernmost island, Kiushu, approaches its southern tip within 100 miles, separated by Corea Strait, with large islands midway. To the west Corea Bay and the Yellow Sea, marked off by Shantung Peninsula, divide it from China. A dense archipelago fringes it south and west.

There is no way of knowing just how much value in American goods enters Corea from Japan, but in the last three fiscal years our imports direct from Corea were $2,045, $2,579 and $20,176. Exports to Corea dwindled from $1,563,113 in 1908 to $230,780 in 1909, and rose again to $442,086 for the fiscal year 1910.

Broad, fertile plains occupy most of Corea. This is just what Japan needs for her teeming agricultural population, because only 12 per cent. of the area of Japan proper is cultivable. The coast of Corea is thickly notched with harbors and fringed with fertile islets. The best harbors are Gensan and Port Lazareff, on Broughton's Bay. The best harbor on the south coast is Fusan, on Corea Strait.

The chief native crop is ginseng, a Government monopoly. In the last three fiscal years the United States has exported nearly $4,000,000 worth of ginseng to China. Among Corea's other agricultural products are rice, wheat, millet, sesame, Indian corn, beans, cotton, hemp and perilla (for oil and pigment). The domestic animals are few.

Corea has valuable gold mines, mainly owned and operated by Americans. Iron ores of excellent quality are mined, and there are copper mines in several places. The silver output is small.

In education Corea has advanced materially in recent years. In 1908-09 a department of education was established, and a thoroughly graded public school system, including normal school training. There are also schools of foreign languages.

The chief cities are Seoul, the capital, with about 250,000 population; Ping Yang, with about 50,000, and Kai-seng. The nine mile electric railway in Seoul is owned and operated by Americans.

THE VICTORY IN MAINE.

A Warning to Democrats that the Country Is Tired of Radical Politicians.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* For nearly ten years now the demagogues of politics in both the Republican and Democratic parties have roamed up and down the country deafening the ears of folks with their clamors for any crazy notion which they thought would help retain them in any old political job which they happened to have.

The people are tired and sick of politicians and politics. For ten years this commercial nation has been made the football of rantankerous, incompetent politicians, with never a thought, I was about to say, of patriotism in their spongy brains. The small merchant views them with disgust. The great merchant speaks of them with disdain. The farmers gibe at them. The financiers of the country look upon them as so many crazy men. When these politicians have not been ranting demagogues they have been high browed pharisees, looking for their own political advancement quite as eagerly as their guttersnipe brethren.

The Democrats should remember the lesson from Maine. I have been in many States this year, and there is one universal cry on the part of high and low for protection from these clamorous politicians. Should the Democrats win a majority in the next House of Representatives their responsibility to the country can hardly be measured in words. They must not seek to outdo the Republican radicals of the last few years, for if the recent Democratic victories teach us anything they teach us that the substantial, quiet, thinking voter has entered his protest against these politicians of the radical type. These voters want this country conducted on constitutional lines; they want an orderly government, a government that they can respect. Why, for nearly ten years newspaper readers have scarcely known what to expect of these radical politicians over night. If they could only get into the limelight by advocating the craziest fad that ever came to mortal mind they came out for it. The people want a rest, and they want it right away. Every Democrat should accept humbly and thoughtfully the lessons taught by the recent Democratic victories, especially that in the State of Maine.

S. J. T.

NEW YORK, September 14.

As a Republican Business Man Sees It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have read many articles giving reasons for the Democratic landslide in Maine, but none giving the reasons which I think account for the loss of many Republican votes. I have always voted the Republican ticket (twenty-eight years), but the excessive activity of the party in late years in the passing of laws restraining the "trusts" and corporations, simply playing to the socialistic passions of the "people" in the effort to gain votes, has created such unsettlement in business that thinking business men will welcome a change of party in power that may give them a rest for a while at least.

A Democratic Congress with a Republican President would probably bring this about. I think also that many Republicans are against the radical stand of the "Only Honest Man" and voted to record their opposition to the advancement of his principles. The above is the opinion of at least one voter, and I propose to vote the Democratic ticket in this State this fall if the standing of the men placed in nomination by them will sweeten the dose. I know of many others who in conversation express the same intention for the same reasons.

BOSTON, September 13.

N. N.

Roosevelttism Must Be Destroyed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The comments on the Maine election are quite amusing. Neither side comprehends that it is the voice of the militant independent voter demanding his rights.

The same independent voter buried Bryanism in 189*, only to find a little later Bryanism appropriated by Roosevelt, then handled very gently by Taft, now transferred and magnified into Roosevelttism, something a thousand times more dangerous, more insidious than poor Bryan ever imagined. Roosevelttism must be destroyed if government of the people, for the people and by the people is to endure.

INDEPENDENT.

NEW YORK, September 14.

THE AUTOMOBILE HORN.

Testimony to the Superiority of the Discordant Variety as a Warning.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have noted from time to time comment and criticism unfavorable to certain auto warning signals which give forth a harsh and discordant sound. I understand that this criticism has in some cases gone so far even as to ask that their use be prohibited by law.

I should like to say a word in regard to this, for I believe that this question is of public moment and should be looked at from every standpoint. I am the father of a large family, and naturally am most interested in its safety and welfare. The other day I saw the children hard at play in the street which passes my house. I watched an automobile come along and blow several blasts from an old fashioned "honk honk" horn.

The children were so engrossed that they neither saw the car nor heard the horn above the noise of their laughter and shouting. I called loudly from the window, but it was too late to prevent my youngest daughter being caught under the wheels, breaking her right ankle.

A short time later I happened to be a spectator to a similar scene. In this case, however, the machine carried that type of warning signal which has often been characterized as a "public nuisance." Accordingly, because of its discordant sound, I noted carefully the effect. No sooner was its blast heard than the children scattered instantly, before the machine was within twelve feet of them. Not only was the sound loud but there was that about it which compelled obedience to its call. The speed with which those children scattered was remarkable. I have seen it prevent injury to older people in the same way enough times to prove, to my own mind at least, that instead of laws being passed to prevent the use of such a signal they should be enacted to require it.

WILLIAM J. ALLEN.

NEW YORK, September 14.

The Origin of the Banjo.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* All doubts of the origin of the banjo were dispelled about twenty five years ago by Irwin Russell in his celebrated and authentic description of the Deluge which appeared in the old *Scribner's Magazine*. Recollection is imperfect, but the essential part runs something like this:

Now Ham, de only nigger what was runnin'
on de packet
Got lonesome in de barber shop an' cudn't stan'
de racket!
An' so for to 'muse himself he steamed some
wood an' bent it,
An' soon he had a banjo made de fust dat was
invented.

He wet de ledder, stretched it on, made bridge
an' screws an' aprin
An' fitted in a proper neck 'twas berry long an'
taperin'.
He tok some tin an' twisted him a thimble for
to ring it
An' den de mighty question riz How was he
gwine to string it?

De possum has as fine a tail as dis dat I's a-
singin'
De hair's so long an' thick an' strong des fit fur
banjo stringin'.
Dat nigger shaved em off as short as wash day
dinner graces
An' sorted of 'em by de size from little F's to
basses.

* * * * *

An' curious too dat nigger's ways: his people
nebber los' 'em.
For where you finds de nigger dar's de banjo
an' de possum.

This clearly establishes the pedigree and social standing of the ancient and honorable instrument. It has come down from antiquity unchanged, except that the possum tail no longer furnishes the strings. Has this de tail raised the banjo to a musical instrument, as claimed by Mr. Dobson?

I once heard a noted banjosmith play the Mendelssohn Concerto. The execution was wonderful.

W. F. CREAMER.

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa., September 13.

DESERTIONS FROM THE ARMY.

Probably Nothing but a System of Capture at Any Cost Will Stop Them.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am an old soldier who pulled a trigger three years during the war of 1861-65 in North Carolina under Burnside, in Maryland and in Virginia under McClellan, and who saw much of army life thereafter.

When an enlisted man becomes discontented he intends to desert, it matters little what causes that discontent. It may be the conditions of camp life, the enforcement of necessary discipline, nostalgia, an awful affliction, or the sudden tumble from the life of an American citizen, where he had been as free as the all encasing air, to a necessary life of servitude, where his every hour, excepting when he is on furlough, is under restriction, and you may rest assured that there have been not a few desertions from our army for another potent reason. Many youths, born and reared in our Eastern cities, who had heard and read much of the allurements of the West, where opportunities for advancement in life are more numerous and wages generally higher, who were poor in purse but rich in health and youth, have enlisted in our Eastern cities under an alias with the intention to desert after they were transported by the Government to some extreme Western post, and seek more profitable employment there under their right names. I personally know of three such worthies who prospered and were elected to the House of Representatives, where they became good legislators.

In 1891-92 there was a long powwow in the War Department under the then Secretary, Mr. Proctor, and a whimsical hodgepodge emanated therefrom. The mountain labored and brought forth this mouse. A bill was drawn and became a law to the effect that half of every enlisted man's pay was to be retained by the Government until the end of his enlistment, and then it was to be paid him when he was finally discharged. This legislation branded every enlisted man as a suspected deserter, and the then Executive, Mr. Harrison, who had been a soldier, signed it with much reluctance. The object of the bill was to prevent desertion. It was thought by the authors that no enlisted man would desert and thus forfeit half his pay, but the result of the law was general discontent and desertions were more numerous than ever.

The reward for the detection and delivery of a deserter was and is $30. This might tempt a cheap detective, but a messmate, a comrade who had drunk from the same canteen, if he could place his hand on a deserter would no more do it than swallow fire. Should he do so he would be tabooed by his company comrades.

Secretary Proctor asked me to submit my views about desertion, which I did, in writing, to the following effect: That our land was so extensive it was difficult to find deserters; that discontented men would desert; that rewards seldom caused apprehensions; that our institutions were such that the idea of freedom among our youth was more general than under any other Government; that the high wage they would receive in other walks of life was a strong temptation; that although a man when he deserted violated his oath of enlistment, the base act was a compliment to the prosperity of the country; but in the interests of army discipline he should be found, court-martialled and punished. To find him was quite outside the functions of the army, but the case should be turned over to the extensive detective system of the Treasury, and all of the machinery of the Government, if necessary, should be brought into play to get the man. As it is now, enlisted men know that deserters are rarely apprehended. If they knew that at any cost, any trouble, deserters would be found and punished, desertions would almost cease. Such a system would be buzzed about army posts, and the discontented would decide to serve out their enlistments.

CLARENCE F. COBB.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., September 13.

Most of the Drudgery at Army Posts Done by Prisoners.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In his article upon desertions from the army Mr. Bailey Millard says that there were 498 more desertions in 1909 than in 1908, but he fails to call attention to the fact that the percentage for 1909 was smaller, due to a much greater number of enlistments in that year. He says that the total of desertions for 1910 will be greater, judging from indications. The indications from data on hand in the War Department point to a much smaller percentage for 1910.

Mr. Millard fails to call attention to the fact that it is not an uncommon practice in our service to return deserters to duty without trial, if it seems to be for the best interests of the service. At least four of the illustrations in Mr. Millard's article show prisoners at work under guard, and are obviously meant to be misleading, as the average reader would suppose them to represent soldiers in good standing at their daily work.

Much of the work at an army post is done by prisoners, especially the work of a disagreeable character, and much of it is done by men who get extra fatigue duty as a punishment. The statement that the soldier's life is of spirit breaking monotony and drudgery is untrue, except as it applies to the man who spends much of his time in the guardhouse. Why do many good men put in thirty years in the army? They don't have to.

The whole article is a tissue of misrepresentation. As to the piteous case of Edwin mentioned in a letter of Mr. Millard to THE SUN, the minimum age for enlistment is 18, and the consent of a minor's parent or guardian is necessary. As Edwin appears to be of the tender age of 16, which makes it more pathetic, some one else seems to have handled the truth recklessly.

BROOKLYN, September 14.

SOLDIER.

THE REV. DR. ACKLEY'S CASE.

His Discharge Represented as the Legal Act of a Corporation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The wardens and vestrymen of St. Andrew's Protestant Episcopal Church, after making several futile attempts to have their charges against the Rev. Dr. Ackley heard by the ecclesiastical authorities of the Diocese of Long Island, and being repulsed by the said authorities, were compelled, as a last resort, to have recourse to the laws of the State. As a corporation of the State of New York their right to discharge an employee of said corporation and to close and take possession of the keys of the building of said corporation is unquestioned. As the Right Rev. Dr. Burgess, Bishop of Long Island, is not a member of the Corporation of St. Andrew's Protestant Episcopal Church