The Sun.

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THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY THAT EVER CAME TO THE DEMOCRACY.

From the speech of Judge Alton B. Parker at Rochester yesterday.

The Democratic party stands confronted with the opportunity and the duty to render patriotic public service of the first magnitude. The fathers builded for us a Government the like of which the world had never seen—a constitutional Government under the control of the people. Into the Constitution they incorporated those great principles of liberty the denial of which had been the cause and the justification of the Revolution. They so divided the powers of government as to guard against Executive usurpation; put it beyond the power of any save the people themselves to amend this Constitution, and sat down to enjoy the blessings of a government of law, not of men.

This was less than a century and a quarter ago. To-day there are political prophets in other lands who predict for us a speedy coming of the dictator. There are in our beloved country advocates of the policy to gradually take from the people the home rule powers of the States and confer them upon the Federal Government. Others, still more progressive, would not await the action of the people, but would seize coveted powers whenever the passing whim or caprice of an Executive shall suggest it. Indeed, a President of the United States has said, in substance and effect, that if we fail to increase the Federal power through Executive action, through legislative and through judicial construction and interpretation of law, we show our impotence. On divers occasions he fitted the deed to the word, and subsequently rejoiced in the applause of the unthinking.

Nor is he alone in this advocacy. Other champions there are of the doctrine that the people of the States and their officials are less competent to deal with business matters than the executive branch of the Federal Government, the courts' share therein being particularly obnoxious. According to this school as large a share as can be of the powers of Congress and the courts shall be taken from them, and ultimately lodged in the Federal Executive. For, says their leader, in his address to the Hamilton Club: "This new nationalism regards the Executive power as the steward of the public welfare." This means that the legislative and the judicial departments of government are no longer to be coordinate departments of government, exercising their powers independently, but are to be subordinate to and controlled by the steward of all power—the Executive.

William the Conquered

In the day of misfortune it would be unkind to deny to the Hon. WILLIAM S. BENNET that consolation which his wounded spirit craves. Too lightly by half, moreover, has his real achievement been treated by the weary recorders of current history who have added a new battle of Saratoga to the decisive battles of the world.

For Mr. BENNET'S achievement was a real one. The old guard, the opponents of direct primaries, and the captains of ten and ten times ten delegates went down before the onslaught of the Boss of the otherwise unbossed convention with scarcely a pause in the attack. Horse, foot and dragoon, they were banished from the field, and still the rough rider ranks were intact.

But the Hon. WILLIAM S. BENNET "broke a British square." To whom, save to him, is to be ascribed that sudden adjournment of the convention that time might be granted to the "progressive" leaders to drive back into line the insubordinate delegates who desired to vote for a candidate they had pledged themselves to support?

Not since Kettle Hill had the intrepid commander faced such a crisis. On one side were the 158 New York delegates loudly acclaiming BENNET. On the other the shattered line of the old guard gave evidence of reforming for a final rally. Even more delegates began to display a curious desire to nominate a candidate themselves.

With adjournment, however, victory was made certain. While the great commander bargained with FRANCIS HENDRICKS and for a slight concession of the Lieutenant-Governor's berth, son support from the enemy, the Hon. HERBERT PARSONS and the Hon. LLOYD C. GRISCOM rushed eagerly among the officeholders of the New York delegation and reminded them of their allegiance and their necessities.

The end of course was said for the Hon. WILLIAM S. BENNET. Having nothing but the support of the delegates his defeat was inevitable. Yet as he sits alone in his tent contemplating the defeat which has come, this source of comfort remains to him. For if others resisted valiantly and contested vociferously, he alone battled effectively.

We trust that the sting of personal defeat will not serve to blind Mr. BENNET'S eyes to the useful service he performed at a great personal risk by demonstrating beyond all question the complete fidelity of THEODORE ROOSEVELT to the fundamental principles of direct nomination.

Speaker Wadsworth.

The retirement of the Hon. JAMES W. WADSWORTH, Jr., from the Assembly deprives the people of this State of the services of an honest man whose great ability and rare courage have long been exercised in their interest.

In the five years in which he has occupied the office of Speaker of the Assembly Mr. WADSWORTH has restored to it a dignity long lost, and his influence earned for the Assembly a public respect it had lacked for many years.

To personal integrity Mr. WADSWORTH added the less common virtue of intellectual honesty. For what he believed he fought. The principles which he championed he never sacrificed to expediency; the convictions which he held he never concealed by public professions of loyalty to doctrines he privately held hateful.

In a progressive army officered by such men as GREINER, PARSONS, COLLINS, DAVIES, BETTS and L'HOMMEDIEU, JAMES W. WADSWORTH, Jr., could have no desire to serve. His whole public life has been a contest waged consistently against the methods which these men have represented in their party and in the Legislature. For him such association was inconceivable.

The present action of Mr. WADSWORTH does not mean permanent withdrawal from public life. The time has not yet come in this State when an honest and able public servant can long be kept in exile merely because he has refused to play the hypocrite and the flunky.

A Billion Dollars for Cotton.

According to the statisticians this year's cotton crop in the United States will be worth $1,000,000,000. This estimate, published in *Daily Consular and Trade Reports*, is made on a 12,000,000 bale basis and the price at last year's average, $73.41 a bale. The cost of the seed, $125,000,000, is included.

Several times this great sum is paid by consumers when the commodity and its by-products are marketed in their finished states, but a billion of dollars for the raw material is an important item in the national economy. A review of cotton conditions in recent years shows that the average annual production for the six year period 1900-1905 inclusive was 10,883,265 bales of 500 pounds each. The average price for the period was 9.95 cents a pound. The average yield of the last five years, taking the 1910 crop at the estimated 12,000,000 bales, has been 12,174,729 bales, and the price, taking 15 cents as the average for the present year, has averaged 12.38 cents. The years from 1891 to 1899, both included, marked a time of depression in cotton prices, the average for the period being 7.44 cents a pound, yet the crop during that time shows increase. It is a fair inference that if the planters lived through a nine year period of 7.44 cent cotton their profits at the average price of 12.38 cents of the last five years must be satisfactory, even when allowance is made for an increase in cost of production.

As a matter of fact, raw cotton should be produced more cheaply to-day than it was fifteen years ago, and would be produced more cheaply than it is if proper methods of cultivation were more generally adopted. The comparatively few who are employing up to date methods that give them a bale or more to the acre must be making money. Cloth and clothing could be materially reduced in price if the business methods of the manufacturer were in some measure imitated by the farmers. Official reports show that a comparatively small but steadily increasing number of farmers are now giving larger attention than ever before to the unit cost of production. When the system becomes general the agriculturists of the country will be more prosperous than they are to-day, and cost of living will show greater reduction than it would from any probable revision of the tariff.

A Progressive.

In another column a Republican asks, whether in earnest or in irony, a definition of "Progressive."

Sometimes a "Progressive" is a person who finds the Constitution of the United States too slow for him.

The Nation's Uniform.

A few years ago a Washington hotel put on its head porter a uniform modelled in every detail after that of a Rear Admiral of the United States Navy. Soon protests began to come from officers of the service, and that baggage handler was furnished with less equivocal clothing. What explanation was offered for this inexcusable misuse of the navy uniform we have forgotten.

Now General FUNSTON has directed attention to a similar abuse practised in a Kansas City public house, whose bellboys wear clothes in cut and decorations very like the uniforms of captains in the army. General FUNSTON will not stay at that hotel, and naturally has the sympathy of other officers in the army. This mid-Western innkeeper did not aim as high as his Washington colleague. If he had, General MILES'S beautiful raiment would have been the copy for his tailor.

It is of course useless for the officers of the army and navy to hope to be as magnificently ornamental as are the door openers and carriage men of some of the pretentious hotels. The commanders of battalions and ships cannot afford such elegance. In their comparatively humble and ill rewarded stations attention must be paid to the cost of gold lace and braid. And here is the puzzling thing about the selection of army and navy dress for civilian employees of private enterprises.

In neither service is the officer's uniform rich enough or gaudy enough to appease the desire of a restaurant keeper for color and striking design. It is a poor imagination that cannot design a more brilliantly bedecked coat than that of Admiral DEWEY. But such as they are the uniforms of the army and navy should be left to the use of those who are properly entitled to them, and should be saved from commercial exploitation.

Mr. Meyer's Tour of Inspection.

The coming tour of inspection by the Secretary of the Navy will be the most extensive and perhaps the most businesslike, taking it all in all, that has ever been undertaken by any occupant of his post. It will cover not only the Atlantic yards, or those with which he has not already made himself familiar, but all the Pacific and Gulf coast establishments and the Guantanamo naval station in Cuba.

Besides looking into the character and needs of the different establishments generally, his idea is to make sure that the new machinery of retrenchment is working smoothly everywhere. He has devised methods of coordination at the navy yards, installed a cheaper, more accurate and more coherent system of accounting, and now, as is quite natural, he wants to satisfy himself that his plans are in orderly and harmonious operation. To this end he is about to embark upon a complete tour of inspection. It is understood that Secretary MEYER is on trial before Congress, and by the end of the current fiscal year, June 30, 1911, he is expected to "make good." That he will do so few doubt who have taken the trouble to familiarize themselves with the controversy, but he is at least bestowing all possible care upon the working of his projects, and if they go awry it will be through no want of constant supervision and solicitude on his part. For the result we shall have to wait, but if one may derive impressions from the improved esprit de corps of the military officials, and the navy would seem to be a military branch, there need be little apprehension regarding the final outcome.

The Sport of Sages.

Those 134 young fellows who crowded around the first tee at Apawamis golf links Wednesday morning, each eager for the starter's command, "You're up next, sir," were less interested in news from Saratoga or Rochester than any other equal number of citizens in the State. Nobler thoughts thrilled them. Freshmen, proud to gain admission to this best of all golfing associations by proof that they had reached the minimum age limit of fifty-five years, were welcomed by seniors of eighty with gracious absence of superior airs or patronizing manners. The elders put the boys at ease, treated them as equals, and then in many matches gave them sound beatings at golf.

The first pair of colts had to be started while yet dew drops glistened on the greens, that later starters might hole out on the eighteenth putting green before dark; yet the sleepy eyed starter, a non-eligible child of fifty, found a crowd of bright eyed lads of three score and ten clamoring to be paired for the first drive.

Evidences of golf's characteristic good fellowship were many. Trust directors were amiably accepted as playing partners by college professors, bank presidents by doctors or lawyers.

And the scores they made! "Even fives" were as common as at national tournaments not many years ago, and one gray haired, ruddy cheeked enthusiast got going so strong that nothing could stop him until he handed in a card of 42, 38—80.

Politics is for babes and busybodies. Golf is the pleasure of the wise.

Overdoing It.

The Connecticut newspapers friendly to Judge SIMEON E. BALDWIN are reprinting an appreciation of the Democratic candidate for Governor by one of his old law pupils, Mr. ISADORE SHAPIRO, an attorney of Birmingham, Ala. We think that the Judge will blush to find himself so learned and so famous. Mr. SHAPIRO paints in high colors with a kalsominer's brush on a canvas as big as the side of a ballroom. Thus Judge BALDWIN is the American Sir Frederick Pollock, "and the two are the most radiant lights in the legal world." The Judge's ancestry also dazzles:

> "On his mother's side he is descended, through the HARLECKENDENS, Baron DACRE and the first Earl of GLOUCESTER, from EDWARD I."

On his father's side the Judge can claim descent only from plain JOHN BALDWIN, who settled at Guilford, Conn., in 1676. However, ROGER SHERMAN, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was his great-grandfather, which is some compensation in a comparison of lineal advantages. Hastily sketching in his subject's distinctions as a collegian and practising lawyer, Mr. SHAPIRO deals thus with Judge BALDWIN'S work on the bench:

> "His decisions are characterized by depth of thought, a profound and masterly knowledge of the law, a clearness and lucidity of expression, equalled by the opinions of few Judges and not even surpassed by the decisions rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States. * * * Unspotted integrity and love for justice find their way into his decisions, and thus make them models of righteousness."

We like Mr. SHAPIRO'S references to Judge BALDWIN as a teacher of constitutional and international law at Yale, for the personal affection of the scholar shines through them and we can see that the veteran is mightily respected by the young men who sit at his feet:

> "As an instructor Judge BALDWIN is without a peer in this country. In him is combined the student with the practitioner. In the class room he is very exacting, asking the most difficult questions, and drilling his pupils to think quickly and analytically. His exams. are noted for their length, novelty and 'stiffness,' but fortunately for the student, he grades leniently. Kind, indulgent and sympathetic, he is adverse to 'flunking' a man who manifests a willingness to work. In fact, 'SIM,' as he is affectionately and deferentially referred to by the student body, is one of the best friends on the faculty the 'fellows have.'"

There follows an impressive list of Judge BALDWIN'S legal works. "He has written in German, French, Latin and English," adds the casual biographer. The Judge's numerous official relations with historical, scientific and other societies are set forth with particularity. Finally, after a "pen picture" of Judge BALDWIN, which does him no more than justice, for he is a virile as well as an intellectual man:

> "Although his Republican opponent, CHARLES A. GOODWIN, is also a Yale man, the candidacy of Judge BALDWIN is being watched and followed by the sons of old Eli the world over. His indissoluble connection with the university would make his election a Yale event. Watch out for SIMEON E. BALDWIN, he's big enough for President."

The Democratic party in Connecticut certainly did a good day's work when it selected Judge BALDWIN as its candidate for Governor. A grand old man of prime new England stock, the line of Governors would be strengthened and enriched by his incumbency. He would give as much honor and renown as he received. But Judge BALDWIN'S prospects of election will be brighter if his biographers lay less stress upon his lineage and learning and more upon his common sense and serviceableness to the State, less upon the "Admirable Crichton" phase of him and more upon the human side of him. And they should be particularly requested to abstain from booming Judge BALDWIN as a college man's candidate. The political records show that it is sometimes fatal.

I want to see the farm life so arranged that there shall be a better outlook for the farmer, but especially for the farmer's wife. THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Does this mean an agricultural supplement or a woman's page?

The Boston *Transcript* in a laudatory notice of the Hon. HENRY L. STIMSON revives the story of how he qualified for the kitchen cabinet:

> "It has already been related in print (but will bear repeating) how on a day when Rock Creek was roaring with freshets Mr. ROOSEVELT met Mr. STIMSON, both on horseback but on opposite sides of the stream. Mr. ROOSEVELT beckoned half in jest to Mr. STIMSON to come over on his side. Without hesitation Mr. STIMSON forced his horse into the stream and the beast swam it, to the drenching of the rider, at considerable risk of being carried down stream, and something to the edification of Mr. ROOSEVELT."

It will be harder going on November 8 when the Harlem has to be crossed with the necessary plurality.

The Hon. HARVEY D. HINMAN and the Hon. DEMOSTHENES DAVENPORT were also prominently mentioned.

I am not used to being nominated for Governor, but I know that no man ever ran for the office who was so free from pledges and promises as I am. *President* WOODROW WILSON.

It is very evident then that Mr. WILSON could not have been nominated if a primary system had been in operation.

A "well known member of the House who has just returned from a trip which practically covered the entire West" is quoted in the Washington correspondence of the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* as saying:

> "I have stopped many men on the street in various parts of the country and asked them why they, Republicans, intended to vote the Democratic ticket this fall. About the only answer I have been able to get was 'Oh, hell!' On my recent trip West I was convinced that Colonel ROOSEVELT'S speeches in that section had served to widen rather than to lessen the breach in the Republican party."

What more explicit answer the "well known member of the House" wanted if such was his opinion of Colonel ROOSEVELT'S labors in the West we cannot understand.

The Leader Who Leads and the Boss Who Drives.

From the New York Commercial.

A part of the programme was this: "That a committee on resolutions, consisting of one member from each congressional district, be appointed by the chair." The chairman to create the committee on platform! Never since the Republican party in New York State was organized had such a thing been heard of in a State convention. The unbroken custom had been to have the delegates from each congress district select the committeemen for all the regular committees, subject to approval by the State committeemen of the congress districts; these committeemen were thereupon accepted by the convention. A fairer plan could not be devised, a distinctly consistent application of the "home rule" principle, every unit loyally in the convention to have a voice in the makeup of the committees. Roosevelt and his cohorts absolutely reversed that principle and precedent. By the brute force of a majority they shunted the minority to the wall practically "unfloored" it from participation in the deliberations of the convention. That action made Roosevelt the absolute dictator of the convention, of the party itself. It put the massing of the platform exclusively into his hands. Does he "drive" like an old time plantation overseer of the worst type? Or does he "lead" by facing the conscience and appealing to the reason of his followers? Is he a leader," or a "boss" of the most arbitrary, vicious and dangerous type?

What Is a "Progressive"?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: What is a "Progressive" in politics, so glibly used at present? Is there a short definition for the term?

I suppose every one is for progress in the ordinary acceptation of the word, but I cannot conceive of the Republican party dividing itself between Progressives and, shall I say, non Progressives.

The word in question must therefore have some peculiar meaning. Please enlighten me, and doubtless thousands of others. I have been unable to find any one among my acquaintances who can explain.

The exclusive use of this admirable word by the Great Grabber of opportunity and his officeholding followers is calculated to give the rest of us a pain.

What does it all mean? I'm against the "Progressive" crowd, but I'm for progress generally. Where do I stand? What kind of a Republican am I? ANXIOUS.

NEW YORK, September 28.

The Movable Calendar.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: What of the hundred days?

What of the defeat of Napoleon?

Can it be that the political prophecies of the infallible SUN were incorrect?

Is it possible that Roosevelt, the infamous, has prevailed against THE SUN and the incorruptible old guard?

You have my heartfelt sympathies in this your most recent error in judgment.

NEW YORK, September 29. A. F. L.

The Issue.

From the Springfield Republican.

Within twenty four hours after the Democrats have nominated their ticket it will be universally recognized that Theodore Roosevelt is the paramount issue in the New York campaign. A vote for Stimson will be a vote for Roosevelt and his future possibilities as a national dictator; a vote against Stimson will be a vote against Roosevelt and against the menace of a twentieth century Caesarism.

What Shall It Profit Him?

From the Washington Herald.

What shall it profit Theodore Roosevelt to rule a convention if he lose his State?

Having dethroned the bosses and enthroned himself, Rooseveltism becomes the Republican issue in New York.

THE TARIFF AND IMPORTS.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—Comparing the imports of the United States for the first seven months of the present year under the Payne tariff law with the imports of the corresponding term last year under the Dingley rates, there appears an increase from $830,500,000 to $917,600,000, or practically 10 per cent. Just how much of this increase is due in any way directly or indirectly to the revision of the schedules cannot easily be determined. From such details as are now available the inference may be drawn that the influence of the Payne law has been quite unimportant. This appears from a grouping of figures taken from the records of the Bureau of Statistics.

In the total imports of these periods an important percentage is represented by articles brought in free of duty under both laws. Some of the more important articles in this group and the value of the merchandise imported in those periods are:

	Seven months 1909.	Seven months 1910.
India rubber	$39,800,000	$65,300,000
Raw silk	47,300,000	34,000,000
Coffee	44,900,000	28,500,000
Tin	15,900,000	19,700,000
Copper	21,900,000	21,800,000
Raw cotton	9,900,000	10,100,000
Cocoa	9,800,000	8,000,000
Bananas	7,600,000	7,300,000
Tea	9,300,000	6,800,000
Pulp wood	5,400,000	3,600,000
Goat skins	18,300,000	19,200,000

Figures are not available for the imports under the more than 200 other paragraphs of the free list, but it may be assumed that in their aggregate such imports are valued at many millions of dollars. Various chemicals, drugs and dyes would add more than $30,000,000 to the foregoing figures. Various animals would add about $2,000,000; cotton waste, about $1,000,000; uncut gems, more than $5,000,000; sisal grass, about $6,000,000; and numerous other articles would add their hundreds, thousands or millions of dollars. On the whole it may be assumed that in the $436,000,000 worth of merchandise (out of a total of $917,600,000) admitted free of duty during the first seven months of the current calendar year only a comparatively inconsiderable quantity or value was in any way affected by the revision of the tariff.

In another group may be put articles subject to duty the rates on which were not changed. This would include:

	Seven months 1909.	Seven months 1910.
Sugar	$68,000,000	$66,500,000
Raw wool	36,100,000	30,000,000
Diamonds, &c	19,500,000	20,800,000
Leaf tobacco	14,900,000	16,400,000
Cigars and cigarettes	2,100,000	3,500,000
Toys	2,400,000	2,900,000
Rice	2,900,000	2,700,000
Coal tar colors	4,000,000	3,400,000
Olive oil	3,400,000	3,500,000
Cheese	3,300,000	4,100,000
Chinaware	7,300,000	3,500,000

Many of the schedules unchanged by the proceedings of last summer cannot be covered by general statements. For instance, imports of leather gloves are reported in their total as $4,600,000 in 1909 and $4,100,000 in 1910. It cannot be said that no change was made in the schedules, for the reason that the rate on one classification out of twenty-three was reduced. Changes were made in items on the silk, woollen and cotton schedules, and imports are reported in their total for each of these lines. Machinery is reported as a group, and change was made on certain kinds of machines. A fully exhaustive analysis of the entire import list is a work of magnitude. Such an analysis will doubtless be reported officially some months hence. A few articles on which the rates were changed show, as do articles on which no change was made, in some cases increase in purchases and in other cases decrease. Iron ore was reduced, as were pig iron, bar iron and various other forms of semi-manufactured iron. Imports of iron ore show increase from $1,964,000 to $4,500,000. Pig iron shows increase from $2,500,000 to $3,700,000; scrap iron and steel from $25,000 to $790,000; bar iron from $341,000 to $991,000, and ingots, blooms, billets, &c., from $1,465,000 to $2,534,000. If steel rails and structural steel, on which the rates were reduced, were imported at all, the quantity was not sufficient to take them out of the "all other" group.

The duty on bituminous coal was reduced from 67 cents to 45 cents a ton and imports increased from $1,800,000 to $2,800,000. This may or may not be due to the reduced rate. The imports of the corresponding term in 1907 were equal to those of this year in value and greater when measured in quantity. The decline in imports of champagne from $4,700,000 to $2,300,000 may be attributed in part to heavy imports last year in anticipation of the increase in rates. The same is probably the case with other items on which an advance was made. In spite of Senator Root's effort to prevent it the duty on lemons was increased. Importation increased from $1,950,000 to $2,250,000. The duty on dates was doubled. Imports increased from $28,000 to $40,000. No change was made in the rate on walnuts, and imports grew from $1,200,000 to $1,700,000. The imports of boards and planks increased about 10 per cent., which may or may not be due to the reduction in rates. It may be inferred that the additional 20 cents a thousand on shingles accounts for the drop from $1,243,000 to $752,000. The transfer of sulphate of ammonia to the free list doubtless accounts for the 100 per cent. increase in imports.

A considerable percentage of the imports of the country is represented by scores of articles whose volume and value are too small for detailed publication.

The result of the transfer of cattle hides to the free list is not easily determined. The imports of the first seven months of this year were valued at $21,600,000, and those of the corresponding year at $16,900,000. Seemingly the increase is due to the tariff reduction; but such a claim appears ill founded in view of the fact that the imports of the first seven months of 1909, the months immediately preceding the transfer of hides to the free list, exceeded those of the corresponding term in 1908 by $10,000,000, while the gain of 1910 over 1909 was less than half of that. The need of more hides and the buying movement evidently began long before the tariff was changed, and purchases were influenced rather by needs than by import duties.

The New Boss.

From the Washington Star.

A new boss has arisen in New York State, a new Republican boss, a boss who has assumed absolute control of his party, has put it through the preliminary work of holding a convention with all the smoothness, expedition and precision ever displayed by an unquestioned commander of political forces.

Has Met Only One.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Only once have I met a woman who stuttered. With recollections of Mrs. Caudle I thought she would make a desirable bride, but unfortunately she lacked several other estimable qualities.

CUT FLEDGE.

LONG ISLAND, September 29.

A LINCOLN VOTER'S DECISION.

Not for Democracy, but He Must Vote Against Rooseveltism.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It has been my privilege and pleasure to vote for every Republican nominee for President during the last forty-five years, my first ballot, at the age of 17, having been cast for Abraham Lincoln while I was serving in the army. Reluctantly, however, I have acquired a sickle and it is well sharpened, despite my regret to spoil the record of which I have felt rather proud.

But what I would like to know is this: I dislike to have my ballot classified as an indorsement of Democracy when it is intended as a rebuke for this selfish and ambitious disturber. Is there any way in which I can on the ballot give expression to that motive? I am not for Democracy, but against Rooseveltism. W. A. S.

NEW YORK, September 29.

GODDESSES OF THE MACHINE.

Are Their Robes Too Splendid for Their Daily Labor?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: What transcendental discernment! Some intelligent person very nearly discovered the real purport of my communication which appeared in Monday's SUN; so near, in fact, did she come to the whole truth that I feel it my duty to explain. Of course for me to explain the obvious is a colossal indignity, to say nothing of the paradox of an explanation coming from me when under the guise of ignorance I asked for enlightenment.

Gentle readers, I was endeavoring to strike a suggestive keynote in the major scale of women stenographers' business dress. If I have failed do not blame me; I so rashly wrote because of my outraged sense of the fitness of things.

An adage of great antiquity relating to clothes making the man (or whatever) is hurled at me from lofty heights of indignation. What a blow in the face of my powers of discrimination! As if a stenographer wearing a court gown would not still be a stenographer! One's mentality and degree of refinement are indelibly written on one's face. I take cognizance of the number of "appropriately dressed, well mannered and often pretty women and girls who have been forced by circumstances not always the most pleasant to earn their living in the best and most remunerative way that presents itself," but they are in the great minority. That is an established fact. My criticism was not aimed at that class. I well know that the most unassuming woman in shirtwaist and skirt (perhaps) is very often the woman of superior attainments.

I admit that I am unable to cope with the dress conditions in New York among women who, like the washerwoman who went to a friend of mine to ask that she be taught stenography, "prefer stenography to washing clothes because it is more genteel." I might say that I am aware that the wages of typists across the Atlantic are not so "remunerative" as are the wages of American typists, but they are not ashamed to dress plainly and they do not care who knows that adjectives drip daily from their fingers. And their plain attire may be directly the result of their low wages, but if American girls dressed with a due sense of the proportion of things they could not possibly wear satin gowns to work, as they do, for I have seen many. One day last week I saw a girl who was dressed in a salmon colored satin gown with large picture hat and white boa. I know that she was a stenographer, and there is no whit of difference between salmon colored satin and black satin when it is considered in its relation to the hard wear of office use. Nor was this girl the only freak of her class, she was but a symbol, a monument of the great lack of common sense of the majority of girls who do stenography. It is a condition, and is what I am exclaiming against.

There is a certain large insurance company that employs hundreds of female typists. A casual glance into the busy offices of this company would lead one to make comparisons with an inaugural ball in full swing, so striking are the costuming effects in their simple magnificence. I defy any ballroom to produce an equal scene, indeed, when these Cinderellas of the machine go to balls, as they must, what on earth do they wear? This is a topic for consideration. The mind that cannot perceive the incongruity of satin gowns in the foreground and typewriting machines in the background would certainly concoct a delicious morsel of dress for serious display. If I knew any of these lady stenographers I should personally remonstrate with them, but meekness I would be restrained by the thought that remonstrance would do no good, for if I ever succeeded in penetrating the Grand Duchess poise of the person in question not one iota of intelligence should I find, nothing but a complex condition of acute mental vacuity.

But I like dress very much. It is its abuse that I decry. Of course, as "One Who Works" said, there is a "psychological effect of pretty clothes." I quite agree with her, but by what standard is she measuring the beauty? It might be well to inquire into the deeper significance of "psychological effect." It consists of this, that its main objective feature is to attract the opposite sex, whatever may be said to the contrary. If this be so, they are defeating their own purpose. Men have told me on innumerable occasions that they dislike the spectacular adornment of female stenographers, and certainly do not hanker after them matrimonially. Such expensive taste in dress would ruin a man financially if continued after marriage.

But I will cease maligning those less fortunate in the possession of a sense of the eternal fitness of things, and I will only temper my criticism with human sympathy when women stenographers temper their taste with common sense. Girls, let us have more shirtwaists and skirts, then watch the men become serious!

A word before I go. This admission will condescend to make, yet criticise not. I am a stenographer! There! But you may be assured that I do not wear a shirtwaist and skirt.

NEW YORK, September 28. DEFICIENT.

She Likes Business.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: What right has "Somewhat Annoyed" to day's SUN to lay down the law that "Any girl who has a grain of sense would stay at home if she possibly could"?

Can't he conceive of such a thing as a woman actually enjoying a business life, loving the work and taking a pride and interest in doing it as well as she can, rather than help at home with the housework?

I for one am tired of being pitied and regarded as an unfortunate, downtrodden, poor working girl, and if those who think they are defending us adopt that attitude they had better turn their attention to something they know more about, for the majority of us are nothing of the kind.

ONE WHO WORKS AND IS GLAD OF IT.

SCHENECTADY, September 28.

Argumentum Ad Collum.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I'll bet "Deficient" wears a 15½ collar. Enough said.

NEW YORK, September 29. ELLIOTT.

Looking for Trouble.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: "Deficient" is apparently not cognizant of the American institution of stenographers' taste in matters of dress. Were "Deficient," besides having a just claim to the cognomen, not a mere male he would appreciate the fact that if a lady stenographer wishes to wear a hobble skirt or an elaborate dinner gown to work it is her absolute right so to do. Further, if she feels inclined to supplement her grand toilette with the finishing touch of a piece of chewing gum, why, it prevents her from appearing communplace.

As for the shirtwaist and skirt, I defy "Deficient" to say that he ever saw such a garb on a stenographer. OBSERVANT.

BROOKLYN, September 29.

The Apostle of Business Disturbance and Class Hatred.

From the Hartford Times.

His victory yesterday means the continuance of the agitation which makes for business unrest and the creation of class hatred, beside which the crusades of Mr. Bryan have been innocuous.

Waste of Time in the Public Schools.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: There is a rank waste of time in the public school teaching, subjects distasteful to certain casts of mind evoke no interest and therefore no ambition. The consequences are listless, lazy young men and women, or mischievous, lawless ones, whose energies are turned into immoral channels to make up for being forced to attend, and whose parents keep them clothed and fed while they fool away the time.

It would be so much better to put such pupils after the ground work of the three Rs to something they can grasp, in which they can find an interest that will carry them to suitable aims in life before they have contracted habits of indolence and indifference or have become pests to the community by vicious inclinations.

NEW YORK, September 29. E. C. MERRITT.

THE NEW MEXICAN CONVENTION

Some Men Who Will Draft a Constitution for the New State.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In THE SUN of September 24 appeared a letter from "An Interested Observer" under the heading "Old Mexico in New Mexico," in which the names of all the members of the newly elected constitutional convention with Mexican names were printed, followed by remarks intended to hold them up before the country to contempt simply because they are Mexicans. The letter is dated from Albuquerque.

I accompanied General William A. Pile from St. Louis to Santa Fé when he was appointed Governor of New Mexico in 1893 and during a residence of about twenty-five years I held several official positions, including that of United States and Territorial clerk of the Third Judicial District Court under four Judges, and I published a paper for several years.

Under the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo after the war with Mexico, the inhabitants were permitted to declare their allegiance to Mexico or become citizens of the United States. Not 100 of about 90,000 announced a desire to remain citizens of Mexico, and all the others became American citizens. In the civil war, with only a few years citizenship, New Mexico furnished a larger proportion to the Union army than any of the Northern States did. In the Spanish-American war New Mexico was strongly represented in the Rough Riders.

In the campaign of 1896, when the States west of the Mississippi went wild for Bryan and free silver, the conservative Mexicans of the Territory elected a Republican to Congress by nearly 3,000 majority on a straight gold platform. The Mexicans then had three-fifths of the votes; they now have less than two-fifths. The disfranchisement of the Mexicans in Arizona has driven thousands of Mexican Democrats to the Republican party in New Mexico so that New Mexico is now safely Republican by about 10,000 majority.

Now a few words as to the names of a few published in THE SUN. Solomon Luna has been for sixteen years a member of the Republican national committee. His brother was a member of Congress. Solomon Luna was unanimously nominated for Congress several times, but having to care for about 100,000 head of sheep and being president of a bank with about a million and a half dollars resources, he was compelled to decline the nomination. His nephew, Max Luna, was a Captain in the Rough Riders and while on General Lawton's staff lost his life in the Philippines. A brother-in-law was killed about the same time that General Lawton was killed.

Eugenio Romero and Margarito Romero are brothers. The family has been prominent for half a century. They are large merchants, land, mine and stock owners. Eugenio is also a railroad contractor and has just closed a contract with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad to supply 400,000 ties. Both have been Sheriff and Eugenio is now County Treasurer. His son is Sheriff. Colonel J. D. Sena has held many official positions, including those of Representative in the Legislature and Mayor of Santa Fé. He is now clerk of the Supreme Court. His father was a candidate for Congress. Colonel V. Jaramillo has held many county and Territorial positions. A. Sandoval is now on the Territorial board of taxation; he is a large stock grower. F. A. Miera has occupied many county and Territorial offices. He has been Speaker of the House and President of the Senate (twice). Nestor Montoya has held many positions in courts and Legislatures, and is editor of a newspaper. His father helped to draft the first Constitution submitted to Congress in 1850.

I should like to mention a few of the Anglo-Saxon members. Thomas B. Catron, a former law partner of Senator Elkins, has been Territorial Attorney, Attorney-General, United States District Attorney and Delegate in Congress. B. F. Parker is a large land and stock owner; E. S. Stover has been Lieutenant-Governor of Kansas and was a member of the last convention that submitted a Constitution to Congress about fourteen years ago. G. W. Prichard has been Attorney-General, United States District Attorney and many times a member of the House. H. O. Bursum has held various county and Territorial positions, and has been chairman of the Republican Territorial committee. H. F. Raynolds has banking interests at Albuquerque, El Paso and Las Vegas. T. D. Burns is a large stock owner. J. M. Cunningham is president of a national and other banks and has held numerous official positions. W. D. Murray is president of a national bank at Silver City. F. W. Parker is serving his fourth four year appointment as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, appointed by McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft. C. J. Roberts is Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, appointed by Taft. John Becker owns several stores, large flour mill, lands, houses, many sheep. W. E. Garrison is president of the Agricultural College and experiment station, supported by both the United States and the Territory, and is a college graduate. A. B. Fall has been several times a member of the Council and was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court under Cleveland. C. A. Spiess has been Speaker of the House and president of the Council. S. B. Davis, Jr., is Assistant United States District Attorney. The above are all Republicans.

Among the Democrats of the convention will be H. B. Ferguson, attorney, mine and land owner, editor and former Delegate in Congress. Samuel Eldodt has been Territorial Auditor. G. A. Richardson has been a member of the Council. J. H. Crist is an attorney, mine owner and editor, and has been Attorney-General of the Territory. W. B. Walton, editor, is present chairman of the Democratic Territorial committee. J. G. Fitch, attorney, has been chairman of the Democratic Territorial committee. T. N. Upton has important live stock interests and was a member of the last Territorial Council. C. R. Brice, attorney, was a member of the last House of Representatives. A. H. Hudspeth, attorney, was also a member of the last House of Representatives. J. I. Hinkle has interests in a large business corporation and owns valuable lands.

There will be many other influential Anglo-Saxons in the convention, but I have described enough of them to show that the Anglo-Saxons will have a good deal to say about the Constitution for the new State.

IRA M. BOND.

WASHINGTON, September 28.

IN THE FIFTIES.

A Philadelphia Exile's Reminiscences of Manhattan.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I am an old New Yorker who went to your city from a town in Pennsylvania in the winter of 1849-50 and remained there for a few years, going thence to Philadelphia, which town or its suburbs has been my habitation since.