The Sun.

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Germany, Russia and the Triple Entente.

The story of a Russo-German agreement about Persia, published in a London paper Friday, seems to be a belated echo of rumors that troubled the continental capitals in the latter part of December. The German press has made a concerted effort to exaggerate the importance of the recent meeting of the Czar and Kaiser, and has tried to construe the statement of Chancellor VON BETHMANN-HOLLWEG in the Reichstag on Germany's foreign relations into a declaration that the Triple Entente had been weakened and that Germany and Russia had drawn much closer together. The words of the Chancellor on which stress was laid were:

"The result that calls for mention of this interview is that Russia and Germany have decided to undertake no enterprise against each other."

This hardly warrants the construction of a closer relation; indeed, on a strict interpretation it might be regarded as excluding that idea.

As regards Persia, both the Chancellor's speech and the versions printed in the best informed newspapers indicated that Germany rather than Prussia was in the mood of concession. The Kaiser is said to have assured the Czar that he would keep his hands off Persia, interfering in no way with the plans of Russia and England, so long as equal economic opportunity was granted to Germans in the land of the Shah. This may unquestionably be regarded as a bid for Russian friendship, but it is no sort of evidence of detachment of Russia from her allies. However, it so fell out that at the very time when the German press was making the most of the occasion to create bad blood between France, Russia and England, one or two other incidents helped to excite suspicion. One of these was the announcement that Russia was practically abandoning her fortresses in Poland along the German frontier and withdrawing her Fifth Army Corps from that line of defence to some unspecified region of the interior. This was taken at once, by those who were eager so to regard it, as a demonstration of confidence in Germany, a sort of disarmament of courtesy. A second incident was the announcement by the *Novoe Vremya* of St. Petersburg that the Russian naval authorities had resolved to buy the armor plate for the new warships from German steel works.

The abandonment of the Polish fortresses and retirement of the Fifth corps was, it appears, purely a strategic precaution. Having lost her old navy in the war with Japan, and her new one being still some years off, Russia feared that her advanced posts on the German frontier might become the objects of a turning or enveloping movement by the German forces by land and sea in case of war. She has no fleet either to defend her own Baltic coast or to make such demonstrations against Memel, Dantzig and other German posts as would make it unsafe for a German column to operate to the southward using them as bases of supplies. Of the *Novoe Vremya's* statement about the armor plate no satisfactory explanation has yet been made, and the French newspapers simply refuse to believe it. Thus, the *Petit Journal* of Paris says:

"Our metallurgical industry is up to the level of any task, and looking at the question merely from the economic point of view we think that if the Russian Marine is obliged to have recourse to any foreign industry, ours, other things being equal, will have the preference."

At the very time when the German press was busiest and these elements of doubt were being canvassed, a somewhat important incident was taking place in Paris. On December 17 M. ISVOLSKY, the former Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, was received as Ambassador at the Elysée Palace by President FALLIÈRES. Under the formal expressions of amity the French newspapers found a display of sincere feeling both unusual and reassuring. In his speech M. ISVOLSKY spoke of the "sincere and invariable friendship" which his august sovereign bore to France and her President. He went on:

"In calling me to the distinguished honor of representing him near the Government of France, friend and ally, his Majesty deigned to enjoin on me the devotion of all my cares to the maintenance and the constant consolidation of the bonds, so close, which unite France and Russia and which serve not only as a protection to the interests of the two countries but also as a precious gage for the conservation of general peace."

Naturally President FALLIÈRES replied in the same strain; he spoke of the choice of M. ISVOLSKY as in itself a proof of friendship, his personal inclination toward France having been demonstrated during his career as Foreign Minister. The exchange of talk after the set speeches was unusually cordial.

The net result of the month of reappraisement of the international situation which succeeded the meeting of the Emperors and the German Chancellor's speech is the conclusion that no change of alignment whatever has taken place. Russia remains just as faithful to her allies of the Triple Entente as at any time since the three Powers came together. But it is generally believed the relations between Russia and Germany have been rendered much more cordial, they have been restored to something like what they were before Austria's Bosnian adventure and the Kaiser's backing of it caused a somewhat pronounced coolness. It is unnecessary to point out how different this renewal of amicable relations is from a political alliance, and how little it involves a breach of existing alliances in any other direction.

Atlee Pomerene.

With the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* we agree that the Hon. ATLEE POMERENE "as the first Ohio Democrat to enter the Senate for many years will be an object of national interest." The personality of Mr. POMERENE is rather elusive, and we are grateful for the few particulars about him that we have been able to pick up. Like a great many members of Congress, he was "born on a farm," so that he began life with an advantage over his fellows in urban communities, and this was enhanced by "the privations of limited means," a euphemism for poverty.

Mr. POMERENE prepared for Princeton in the Berlin, Ohio, public schools. He was too slight of physique and too meditative to win heroism on the football field, and in other sports he did not excel, so that Princeton, which he left with a degree in 1884, must long ago have forgotten him. His annals up to the time of his election as prosecutor of Starke county—he settled in Canton—were short and simple, "the privations of limited means" continuing. Mr. POMERENE'S habits were exemplary. He never used tobacco in any form, and he was strictly abstemious, which makes his rapid rise in Ohio public life unaccountable. His affiliations seem to have been with the radical element of the Democracy. TOM JOHNSON was his sponsor, mentor and backer, and secretly Mr. BRYAN, who never praises a public man to his face, admired Mr. POMERENE. In 1908 there was a strong and mysterious movement to make ATLEE POMERENE the Democratic candidate for Governor, although he had held no office but that of prosecuting attorney of Starke. To most people in the State his was only a name that suggested some fragrant and luscious tropical fruit. But he was already ripe for public service, and missing the Governorship had to be content with the second place on the Harmon ticket. No sooner was the Legislature known to be Democratic on the face of the returns last November than ATLEE POMERENE became a candidate for Senator. Governor HARMON seems to have thrown his influence to his associate in office, conciliating, whether with craft or not, the radicals of the party. But we shall always think the alluring quaintness and euphony of Mr. POMERENE'S full name had a good deal to do with his selection by the caucus. One Democrat after another succumbed to the temptation to call out "ATLEE POMERENE" in a clear and high voice.

Mr. POMERENE was asleep at a local hotel when nominated. It was late and he was spent with canvassing. Awakened with the news of victory, "his eyes were clouded with tears." ATLEE POMERENE is distinctly emotional. There is much testimony of flowing ducts. One opponent after another approached him with congratulations and "the tears rushed to his sight." Hurried to the caucus room in a flying wedge of admirers, ATLEE POMERENE ascended the speaker's dais for the conventional purpose. "Tears coursed down his cheeks" as he returned thanks to the Democrats of the General Assembly. Mr. POMERENE is 47, and his face is full of sensibility. Clean shaven, high and rather bulbous browed, with a large, speaking eye and an air of simplicity and goodness pleasant to behold, he is as different from the late ALLEN G. THURMAN, the furrowed and bearded old bandanna statesman, as can be imagined. Apparently the Hon. ATLEE POMERENE belongs to the new school of Democratic politicians, and time alone can tell the quality of his service. We shall listen to the first notes he lisps with a kindly but a critical ear.

The Scientific Way to Found a Colony.

Mr. S. P. VERNER, a pioneer and explorer in the Belgian Congo, has written an excellent paper upon scientific colonization, the substance of which is published in the *Bulletin of the American Geographical Society*. The keynote of the plan he presents is struck in these quaint and suggestive lines of doggerel:

"Beware, beware of the Bight of Benin,
For one that comes out there's ten that went in."

There are still prolific regions on the earth's surface unoccupied except by savages, and there is therefore a good deal of colonizing to be done. Often in the past it has been done badly; many human lives and vast sums of money have been lost by selecting unhealthful and unpropitious bases of operation. In the early days of discovery, when methods of transportation were primitive and hygiene had no significance, colonization began usually with a settlement at the mouth of a river, on land low and often miasmatic. There the base was established and there men died like flies; the colony languished, and not infrequently it was abandoned. "The cause of most of the initial misery in Africa, as well as in Central and most of South America," says Mr. VERNER, "was that the early settlements were deathtraps. * * * At the mouths of every one of the African and South American rivers there has grown up a pest hole." It is true that sanitation has converted some of the pest holes into places where white men can live secure from yellow fever, but malaria takes its toll still, and the untempered heat is enervating, with the result that capital is slow to respond to demands upon it, and development lags.

Mr. VERNER lays down several rules for scientific colonization. His first is that a port should be found on the coast "nearest to any elevated region or mountain, if possible having an altitude of 9,000 feet or more under the equator, or less to the north or south by 300 feet per degree of latitude." There must of course be a temporary base on the coast, but he would restrict settlement "to the barest requirements for reaching these uplands." He eliminates the river as an essential:

"It will be found that generally there is a sort of high peninsula abutting on or projecting sometimes far out to sea where a watershed runs down to the ocean between two rivers. This is notably the case with Cameroons Mountain, which marks the ocean terminus of the watershed between the Calabar and Sennaga rivers. There are plenty of other such watershed termini all along the tropical coasts, mostly neglected as possible bases, because mariners have aimed at the estuaries, while really these promontories often form ramparts for the best harbors. The promontories are also usually the nearest natural seaports for the highlands from which they extend. There is one splendid example of the application of this principle, where the French Government has built a city at Dakar, below the mouth of the Senegal, and practically on exactly such an ideal watershed terminus as that described. Dakar is the finest, healthiest and most successful port in West Africa, and is a shining example of the application of this idea."

The hinterland of Sierra Leone and Liberia, the Cameroons, Belgian Congo, Angola and Mashonaland provide such elevated tracts for colony bases. Mr. VERNER in adding western South America to the list forgets that good harbors are rare on the Pacific coast. A temporary base having been established, "build a preliminary rapid transit line from the port to the colony," he says. Building railroads in tropical lowlands is an unhealthy business, but with modern constructive methods rapid progress is possible.

The "most woful mistakes" have been made in not providing fresh food for the men engaged in opening up a new country. "Immigrants into Liberia," says Mr. VERNER, "have almost starved to death in one of the richest agricultural regions in the world. This I saw with my own eyes." The lack of a proper food supply "almost stopped the Benguela railway." An area of land, it is urged, should be cleared at once by the colonizers and the ground prepared for cultivation of foodstuffs. With machine saws, stump pullers, steam ploughs, large disk turn ploughs, a sufficient area can soon be made available for seeding. For the support of 10,000 laborers 3,000 acres of land should be planted in corn, peas, bananas and garden truck, and the forage used to raise cattle, goats and fowls. "I have tried the system," says this advocate of scientific colonization, "and it was so successful that it almost threatened to ruin neighboring enterprises by drawing all their labor away." The usual method is to import food at a tremendous cost.

Sanitary engineering must accompany every step of development; that is to say, a pure water supply is to be obtained, sewage disposed of, insect harboring bush and grass burned, a hospital built, and houses suited to life in the tropics provided for everybody employed in the enterprise, both at the temporary base and at the main colony base at the high elevation. Means of recreation are not to be neglected. In the tropics exercise is almost as necessary as in the temperate zone. "The most efficient official I ever knew in Africa, one who has held his post for twenty years in a very trying position," says Mr. VERNER, "has probably played 10,000 games of tennis in that time." Therefore, there should be a gymnasium at the hill colony and a field for sports.

No trading establishment, residence, store or factory below the safety line is another rule of scientific colonization. The main base above the safety line being established, automobile or traction roads are to be built as accessories to the railroad, and spur lines run down to watershed rivers. There should be supervision of forest clearing to assure an adequate supply of timber and to conserve rainfall. In all governmental schemes land ought to be reserved at low cost to individual colonists. In the French Congo this is done; in the Belgian Congo it is not. The French possessions in the upper Niger have been developed on such a plan as Mr. VERNER'S from the West Coast at Dakar, and the result is "a standing object lesson in colonial development." It does not detract from the value of this lesson that the French literally were forced to get into the hinterland by the back door because the English held the lower Niger.

Scientific colonization as a term is of course synonymous with modern colonization. It belongs to a day of electricity, steam drills, dynamite, labor saving devices, machinery for clearing ground and cultivating the soil, sanitation and hygiene, and concentration of capital. This is an inventive and scientific age, and nothing need be done badly or wasted. It is true Mr. VERNER'S system is proposed for great enterprises, but on a reduced scale it can be adapted to modest schemes of colonization.

It is likely that the well defined plan already under discussion which provides for the removal from the hall of the House of Representatives of the desks that are now used by the members will be considerably advanced by the need for more room growing out of the increase in the number of Representatives. The new office building provides facilities for the transaction of clerical work and the handling of correspondence, so that no great inconvenience on this score would be caused by taking out the desks. With the hall of the House so rearranged as to bring the members closer together debate would be made easier, the acoustic properties of the room might be improved, and orators would have a better chance of commanding the attention of their colleagues.

Baltimore seems to have the oldest skater who plays truant on the ice. He is Mr. GEORGE EDWARD WOODWARD, 78. He has used the same skates for sixty-four years and "cuts birds and animals in a way to make one marvel at his cleverness." Mr. WOODWARD seems to be incorrigible. According to his wife:

"GEORGE is not doing anything these days unless it is his skating. I think he is getting too old, but he thinks not, and says he can skim over the holes and weak places."

GEORGE stays out on the ice long after dark, with the tails of his red muffler flying in the wind as he races along with boys sixty years and more his juniors. We should like to know if Mr. WOODWARD'S match can be found in the icier North or in Canada, the land of accomplished hockey players.

In Kansas, according to Auditor JAMES M. NATION, "thousands of dollars are wasted every year in printing reports and documents that have no value, and in duplicating reports of State officers." Nobody has ever had the courage to calculate how much money is misspent and thrown away in the Government Printing Office at Washington.

THE SALE OF GOOD WILL.

An important decision by the Court of Appeals defining the rights of a person who has bought his partner's share of the good will of their business was handed down in the case of Von Bremen & Asche vs. MacMonnies & Von Elm, in which the court decides that when there has been a voluntary sale of the good will of a copartnership by two members to a third, and the retiring members then set up a similar business of their own, they are not at liberty thereafter to solicit the customers of the former firm, and an injunction may be issued restraining them from interfering with a part of what they have already sold.

Von Bremen, MacMonnies and Von Elm entered into a copartnership in 1904 in the business of importing and selling certain articles, and by the terms of the agreement the partnership was to continue until April 30, 1909. In February, 1909, MacMonnies and Von Elm sold to Von Bremen "all their right, title and interest in all the assets, good will, trade marks and other property of every name and nature" of the copartnership, for which they received $44,000, which was $1,500 more than the book value of the property transferred. There was no specific valuation of the good will. Von Bremen took Asche into partnership under the name of Von Bremen, Asche & Co., and not long afterward the defendants formed a partnership as MacMonnies & Von Elm for a similar business. Competition arose between the firms which plaintiffs contended had a tendency to lessen or destroy the good will of the business which had been transferred by the defendants.

The trial court granted a part but not the whole of the relief prayed for, and enjoined the defendants from using the old cable name "MacMonnies"; from using a trade list of 2,200 dealers which had been compiled by the old firm, and from using labels, trade marks, tins and packages that were controlled by the old firm. The interlocutory judgment also directed an accounting of the profits realized by the defendants and an assessment of the damages sustained. The plaintiffs appealed and the Appellate Division gave them additional relief, but still not as much as was asked for, although the injunction was extended to restrain the defendants from soliciting the agency for articles of which the old firm had the exclusive agency and from soliciting orders for goods packed under special labels or brands. One member of the Appellate Division thought the defendants should be restrained from soliciting the old customers, but a majority of the court ruled against it. The question that went to the Court of Appeals was whether the injunction should be thus extended.

Judge Bartlett, who writes the Court of Appeals opinion, says that to answer the question makes it necessary to inquire what restraints the law imposes upon the assignor of the good will of a business who does so voluntarily and not as the result of bankruptcy proceedings or under like compulsion. He says that of the noteworthy definitions of good will probably the narrowest is that of Lord Eldon, who in 1810 defined it as "the probability that the old customers will resort to the old place." One of the broadest was suggested by Vice-Chancellor Page-Wood in 1859, when he declared that good will included "all that good disposition which customers entertain toward the house of business identified by the particular name or firm and which may induce them to continue giving their custom to it," and again, "Good will must mean either advantage * * * that has been acquired by the old firm in carrying on its business, whether connected with the premises in which the business was previously carried on, or with the name of the late firm, or with any other matter carrying with it the benefit of the business."

Judge Bartlett says that the question which has given most trouble to the courts has related to the right of the vendor of the good will to solicit business from the customers of the old firm. In England the controversy extends from Labouchere vs. Dawson, decided in 1872 by Lord Romilly, Master of the Rolls, to Trego vs. Hunt, decided by the House of Lords in 1895. The first case was the sale of a brewery business upon the death of one of two partners, where the surviving partner went into business for himself and contended that he could solicit orders from the old customers because there was no stipulation to prevent him from doing so. Lord Romilly decided that he could not lawfully apply to any customer of the old firm, either personally by a traveller or privately by letter, to ask the customer to deal with him and not with the plaintiffs. Another Master of the Rolls, Sir George Jessel, laid down the same rule in 1880, but went further and said he was willing to hold that assignor of the good will could not even deal with the customers of the old firm if they came to him unsolicited; and he carried this view into law in a subsequent case, Leggott vs. Barrett, but the Court of Appeal vacated that part of the injunction. Shortly afterward the same court held that the doctrine of Labouchere vs. Dawson did not apply in cases of compulsory alienation.

The decision of the House of Lords in Trego vs. Hunt was that the sale of the good will of a business, even when the vendor himself is a party to the contract, does not impose upon him any obligation to refrain from carrying on a trade of the same nature as before. Lord Macnaghten in his opinion in the case said:

A good man may not derogate from his own grant; the vendor is not at liberty to destroy or depreciate the thing which he has sold; there is an implied covenant in the sale of good will that the vendor does not solicit the custom he has parted with; it would be a fraud on the contract to do so. These, it seems to me, are only different terms and glimpses of a proposition which I take to be elementary. It is not right to profess and to purport to sell that which you do not mean the purchaser to have; it is not an honest thing to pocket the price and then try to recapture the subject of sale; to decoy it away or call it back before the purchaser has had time to attach it to himself and make it his very own.

Judge Bartlett says that the courts of high repute in this country have adopted the same view as the House of Lords in Trego vs. Hunt as to the right of a voluntary assignor of the good will of a business to solicit from the old customers. It obtains in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Michigan, Rhode Island, Illinois and Pennsylvania, while Connecticut seems to be the only State where a court of last resort has held a contrary view. Judge Bartlett says that the rule thus sanctioned in England and in so many States of the Union meets with the approval of the Court of Appeals of this State, and the interlocutory judgment is accordingly extended so as to enjoin the defendants from soliciting the customers of the old firm.

The American Language.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A gentleman with an Icelandic name writes to THE SUN about "the American Language." I couldn't understand him, but I gather that he is very, very angry. Does he write the American language, I wonder? If so please ask him to publish a grammar of it, as it seems altogether different from English and philologically interesting on account of the Icelandic and Persian idioms. G. C.

NEW YORK, January 7.

THE LIQUOR QUESTION IN MAINE.

AUGUSTA, Me., Jan. 7.—Twenty-eight years ago Frederick Robie, then Governor of Maine, in his inaugural address pronounced in favor of a proposition to make the statutory prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, commonly known as "the Maine law," a part of the organic law of the State, and recommended to the Legislature that the proposition be submitted to the people. Furthermore, he expressed the opinion that constitutional prohibition "would have the effect of keeping the question to a considerable extent, if not entirely, out of politics."

The Legislature, which was strongly Republican, shortly afterward passed a resolve in accordance with the Governor's recommendation, and at the regular State election held on September 8, 1884, the people ratified the proposed amendment by a vote of 70,783 to 23,811, about 50,000 qualified voters not voting either way. That was the beginning of constitutional prohibition in Maine and in the United States. In 1885 the same Governor Robie in his second inaugural address complimented the people upon their enlightened action and declared that "prohibition is no longer a question for a political campaign; it is forever settled, and cannot be changed until the people give their consent."

But neither Governor Robie's opinion expressed in 1883 nor his confident declaration made in 1885 was right. Constitutional prohibition has not kept the question, to any considerable extent, out of politics, or prevented it from being a disturbing and demoralizing factor in political campaigns. Twice the effort has been made in the Legislature to have the amendment, which is known as the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, resubmitted to the people, but the Republican leaders have stood pat and prevented action.

Two years ago, after the Democrats had made an aggressive fight for resubmission and increased their representation in the Legislature by so doing, a resubmission resolve was overwhelmingly defeated in both branches, in the Senate by a vote of 22 to 7, one Democrat voting with the Republicans, and in the House by 93 to 52, two Republicans voting with the Democrats. This year the Democrats made another hard fight for resubmission, every candidate for Senate or House standing squarely on the platform. They carried the State, and for the first time in more than fifty years captured both branches of the Legislature. Their victory was doubtless due to a number of causes, but it is only reasonable to assume that the growing sentiment in favor of some sort of change in liquor legislation had a good deal to do with it.

That the Democrats in the Legislature will do their utmost to carry out the pledge of the party goes without saying, but that they will come much nearer winning than they did last year is not indicated by a careful canvass of the situation. It requires a two-thirds majority in each branch of the Legislature to resubmit an amendment to the Constitution, but once resubmitted a majority vote at the polls decides its fate. It is possible that resubmission will be favored by the present Senate, as the Democrats have twenty-two of the thirty-one Senators, or just the number required, but among their number is one man who voted with the Republicans two years ago and may do so again, being a strong prohibitionist. It is said by some of his colleagues, however, that while believing in the principle of prohibition and in a prohibitory law, he has intimated that this time he will support the resolve to resubmit the constitutional amendment to the people.

It is in the House that the resubmissionists are likely to run against a serious snag. That body consists of 151 members, and of these eighty-seven are Democrats and sixty-four Republicans. Assuming that all of the Democratic members may be counted upon to vote for resubmission, there would still be a shortage of fourteen votes, as 101 are required to give the resolve a passage. Several newspapers have attempted to poll the members-elect of the Senate and House to ascertain their views on resubmission, but although none of these polls is complete enough has been brought out to convince the opponents of resubmission that the resolve is in for another defeat. Deep down in their hearts the Democratic leaders do not feel badly over the outlook, for the reason that they believe that another knockout blow at resubmission will enable them to tighten their hold on the State. Evidently the time has come when there is enough of Republican dissatisfaction with prohibition to give the Democrats a victory at the polls, but not enough to piece out what the Democrats need to give a two-thirds majority in each house for a resubmission of the prohibitory amendment. This will come about in time, however, as the only increase in Maine's population is due to immigration of French Canadians, Greeks, Italians and Albanians, most of whom have liberal ideas as to liquor legislation and naturally gravitate toward the Democratic party, which as a whole is outspoken and aggressive in favor of the overthrow of prohibition and the substitution of either local option or Statewide license.

That the prohibition leaders do not intend to be caught napping and permit the assault on constitutional prohibition to be successful if they can prevent it, is shown by the fact they are organizing in all parts of the State and keeping tabs on the legislators-elect. They fully expect to sidetrack resubmission, but if by any possibility they fail in that, their plan is to fight the issue at the polls in what it may safely be predicted will be the most picturesque and exciting political campaign in all of Maine's history. The Civic League, the Anti-saloon League, Good Templars, White Ribboners, the W. C. T. U., the prohibition element in the churches, all are preparing for the battle royal that will surely take place if by hook or by crook the resubmission resolve gets through the incoming Legislature. Such working prohibitionists as Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens, head of the W. C. T. U., and by many people regarded as the real Republican boss, the Rev. H. N. Pringle, chief of the Maine Civic League, and B. C. Jordan, an unattached but vociferous prohibition shouter, are in charge of the prohibition forces and make no bones of saying that if it comes to a fight at the polls over constitutional resubmission they will turn the State topsy-turvy and give the thousands of people who come to Maine for their summer vacation a chance to see what a red hot fight against rum and the devil is like.

But supposing that resubmission should be carried at the polls, what then? Maine would still be a prohibition State, and it would continue to be until "the Maine law" was wiped off the statute books. It is quite likely that there might be a triumph for the resubmissionists followed by a victory for the prohibitionists. Some people think this is just what will happen, because of the evident fact that many voters are saying there can be no harm in giving the present generation an opportunity to vote whether or not prohibition shall remain a part of the constitution, these same voters not being ready to go a step further and vote prohibition out of the statute.

Visitors in Maine have been known to wonder why it is that Maine people are so stubborn in their adherence to the principle of prohibition, while their neighbors of New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts are so much less inclined to favor sumptuary laws. They should bear in mind that it is not easy to teach an old dog new tricks. Maine was the pioneer prohibition State, and for many years was the only one in the United States. With the exception of two years it has had a prohibitory law since 1852, when Governor John Hubbard, a Democrat, and father of one of New York's distinguished citizens, signed the first act known as "the Maine law." But Neal Dow, the father of prohibition, began a temperance agitation, and to pave the way for a prohibition crusade, as long ago as 1833. In that year Dow was a leader of the "Portland Young Men's Temperance Society," and largely because of his efforts more than 1,300 persons signed the pledge in three years, including the poet Longfellow. In 1834 he took part in the first State gathering in behalf of temperance ever held in Maine, and in 1835 he first brought forward the prohibition idea. Dow was then chief of the Portland Volunteer Fire Department, a force of 700 men, and including the flower of Portland youth. The first firemen's dinner to be given in Portland without liquors being served was given by the Deluge Hand Tub about this time, the persuasive eloquence of Neal Dow having brought about the change, although there came near being a riot. The first law Dow got through the Legislature was "an act to ferret out and suppress the grop shops." It was passed in 1849 and promptly vetoed by Governor Dana. It was a prohibitory law, but mild in comparison with the law as it stands today, a perfect crazy quilt of a law, with its sixty or more amendments.

If Neal Dow were alive to-day he would be 107 years old. He died in 1897, but his soul goes marching on, and in the little country towns throughout the State his name is still one to conjure with. His memory is honored in Maine's chief city, where in early days he had a checkered political career and where one of his administrations as Mayor started an anti-prohibition agitation which ended in a riot and the death of a number of persons. It will be no easy task to turn Maine from prohibition, but the trend of sentiment is in that direction, and sooner or later, from one cause and another, all that Neal Dow builded will be laid low.

THE DRAMATIC ART.

Suggestions for Its Improvement in American Theatres.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A week ago I saw the performance of "Madame X" given by Sarah Bernhardt and her superb company. Every rôle, from the most insignificant to the most important, was ideally rendered. What a delight to see this harmonious ensemble with every scene and situation made the most of! How finished and complete each character study, each part standing out and giving the right contrasting color to the other!

Why is it that nearly all French plays are so finely interpreted and finely acted, and why is it otherwise in this country? Why are good plays like "The Foolish Virgin" butchered here when they have such a great success abroad? Why is it that an actor or actress as soon as he or she gives promise of a little talent is made a star? Is there too little good talent to go around? If so, what is the reason?

The answer is, "Where are our dramatic schools?" Is it not time to found a proper institution for bettering this unfortunate situation? We have the best schools in sculpture, painting, architecture and music. Why not have them also in this kindred histrionic art? Architects, painters, sculptors and musicians go abroad to get the best there is, and bring it to this country, establishing seats of learning with the best ideas from the other side.

The New Theatre might have done this. Instead of starting out with a large, expensive playhouse, would it not have been better to have constructed a small and less pretentious structure, with a fine school in connection with it, placing at its head some prominent Frenchman who was imbued with the best traditions of the French stage? We have done this in architecture. M. Depradelles, a winner of the Grand Prix in architecture, is at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Lloyd Warren has established the Beaux Arts system of training in this country, which has done wonders for the educational movement in architecture. He has also been the means of securing many scholarships given by prominent men for students who have shown their efficiency in producing the best "projects" in the school examinations here. These scholarships entitle the holders to study at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris for a number of years.

This same system of scholarship could be enacted in connection with a good dramatic school in this country to allow the young actor to take, as it were, a post graduate course at the best dramatic school in Paris, and at the same time steep himself in an artistic atmosphere of the Comédie Française and other fine playhouses, and it is to the New Theatre we should look to make a start in the right direction by establishing such a school, with travelling scholarships for students who give promise of the best talent. HARRY JACOBS.

NEW YORK, January 7.

Food for the Poor of Cleveland.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In a letter in THE SUN of December 27 E. C. Rodgers of Cleveland made the statement that the public Christmas dinner formerly given by the Salvation Army in Cleveland had been discontinued at the request of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce on the ground that such dinners were "unnecessary, spectacular, and advertised abroad the fact that there are poor people living here." Your correspondent quoted as his authority, without, however, giving that authority, a story which appeared in the Cleveland *Press*.

The Cleveland Chamber of Commerce did not oppose a public Christmas dinner on the ground that such a dinner would advertise the fact that there were poor people in Cleveland. The records of this organization contain ample evidence of our constant purpose to discover and make public conditions which reflect no credit on this city, thus preparing the way for efforts to remedy such conditions. In many such cases the evil conditions have been peculiar to Cleveland. It is hardly likely, therefore, that we should be so foolish as to endeavor in any way to conceal the existence of poverty in this community, a condition which is not by any means peculiar to Cleveland; nor, for that matter, is the condition peculiarly aggravated in Cleveland; the contrary rather is true. As a matter of fact this organization has encouraged and assisted the proper distribution of Christmas dinners by Cleveland charitable organizations as well as the general development of all worthy Cleveland charities, with the result that practically every needy family receives a Christmas dinner, and further the general private and public charitable work of Cleveland is as well organized and as sympathetic and effective as that of any city of the country.

The Cleveland Chamber of Commerce several years ago did urge the Salvation Army to abandon the public dinner and to substitute the distribution of Christmas baskets, upon the well recognized principle that the exploitation of the poor through spectacular exhibitions of this character (for all Cleveland was invited to see the poor people eat these Christmas dinners) is detrimental to the self-respect and well being of the poor themselves. The Army quite willingly acceded to this suggestion, and our committee on benevolent associations gained the impression that the officers of the Army agreed that the basket dinner quietly distributed is better than the public dinner.

MUNSON HAVENS, Secretary.

CLEVELAND, January 7.

The Dominican Customs Receivership.

General Clarence R. Edwards, chief of the bureau of insular affairs, says in his 1910 report:

"Customs revenue collected by the receivership during the fiscal year was $2,876,976, or $482,413 less than in 1909. From its inception, April 1, 1905, to July 31, 1910, the receivership has collected and accounted for $16,553,839, distributed in accordance with the terms of the modus vivendi and the subsequent convention. After segregation of operating expenses by the receivership the stipulated monthly payments of $100,000 to the fiscal agent in the United States for service of the loan have been remitted regularly and promptly, as in preceding years, and the balance of collections remaining turned over to the Dominican Government. The disbursements covering the expenses of the receivership and the regular customs service amounted to (only) 4.77 per cent. of the total collections, though 5 per cent. is allowable. During none of the five years since its constitution has this margin (of expense) been reached by the receivership, and a surplus has remained each year which has been covered into the Dominican treasury. Weakened purchasing power of consumers and some commercial distress attendant upon unsatisfactory cacao and coffee crops and diminished prices of tobacco in some European markets account in part for the decline in customs receipts.

"The new tariff legislation has been favorably received, and the outlook is encouraging for a year of increased business that should promote a more general prosperity throughout the republic."

The Dominican receivership is a piece of American work, cleanly and cleverly done.

Development of the Growing Speech.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Of course it is "foss." Why this "fuss"? We of Massachusetts, long in the forefront of reform, have sealed foss with our approval. Stormonth, forsooth Beshrew Stormonth! Shall not the usage of Worcester and Webster govern? And where are they but in Massachusetts?

Indeed, the more advanced of us already define the phrase "confusing the issues" by the verb "obfossticate," and among ourselves refer to certain oratorical inflictions as "fosstigations."

Can the foss of nature further go? Perhaps, for there are whispers that the great heart of Massachusetts has seen a light and dubbed it "fossforus"! C. S. P.

BOSTON, January 7.

THE KINGDOM OF CORN.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Official reports show that the corn fields of the United States in 1910 covered 114,000,000 acres, some 178,000 square miles, about the area of the eleven States east of Ohio and north of the Virginias, say 90 per cent. of France or Germany. The product was probably nine-tenths of all the corn grown in the world. Its farm value was $1,500,000,000. The acreage planted has increased nearly 40 per cent. in ten years; in 1900 it was 83,300,000 acres.

The yield was 3,125,713,000 bushels, an average of 27.4 bushels to the acre. The average crop of the preceding ten years was twenty-six bushels. Commenting on acreage yield in a recently issued official bulletin the bureau of plant industry says that twice twenty-six bushels an acre is a fair crop, three times twenty-six bushels is a good crop and four times that is frequently produced. This official publication opens with the statement that "it is possible within a few years to double the average production of corn an acre in the United States and to accomplish it without any increase in work or expense." That is, two bushels of corn being produced without increased cost where one bushel is now produced the unit cost of production would be reduced one-half. Farmers are in wide disagreement regarding the cost of production. There are farmers who insist that corn cannot be produced for less than 40 cents a bushel, and there are others who declare that they are producing it at a cost of 20 cents a bushel.

Assuming 30 cents as a fair average and assuming that the bureau of plant industry knows its business, it appears that our corn crop costs about $470,000,000 a year more than it should. This is a good deal more than the sum quoted by Mr. Aldrich as possibly to be saved by the Government and also a good deal more than the sum that Mr. Brandeis said could and should be saved in railway operation. The bureau adds that it is not desirable to double the present crop, but to produce the same yield on a smaller number of acres and with less labor. It is asserted that progress is being made in the direction of that eminently desirable end, and the figures support the assertion, although somewhat feebly. The increase of 1,000,000,000 bushels in the crop of 1910 over that of 1900 seems due rather to increased acreage cultivated rather than to increase in acreage yield.

There are sections of the country that are regarded as particularly suited to corn cultivation, notably the middle West and the South. The northeastern corner of the country is not included in the specially favored sections, and the States east of Ohio and north of the Virginias produced last year a little less than 5 per cent. of the total crop. It is, however, to be noticed that the acreage yield in that section averaged 45.4 bushels as compared with 39.1 in Illinois, 39.3 in Indiana, 36.5 in Ohio, 36.3 in Iowa, 19 in Kansas, 20.6 in Texas and 25.8 in Nebraska. There is also a wide variation in local prices. Thus the price on December 1, 1910, is reported as 71 cents in Maine, 70 cents in Massachusetts, 68 cents in Connecticut, 63 cents in New York, 59 cents in Pennsylvania, 46 cents in Ohio, 40 cents in Indiana, 38 cents in Illinois, 36 cents in Iowa, 45 cents in Kansas, 95 cents in Montana, $1.10 in Arizona and 80 cents in California. The price system is not at all clear. Theoretically it might be based on price at some point or points of largest production plus the cost of transportation to other markets, but a review of the quotations suggests the operation of other influences. The average bushel price on the farm for the entire crop of 1910 is given as 48.8 cents, as compared with 59.6 cents in 1909, 60.6 cents in 1908, 51.6 cents in 1907 and 39.9 cents in 1906. The average for the ten year period 1896 to 1905 inclusive was 37.1 cents, with a range from 21.5 cents in 1896 to 60.5 cents in 1901. The average for the last five years is 52.1 cents, an increase of 40 per cent. over the average of the preceding ten years. In that fact lies a broad explanation of the increased cost of beef and various other commodities.

Very likely to a man the farmers approve those schemes for economies amounting to $300,000,000 a year in the conduct of railways and the administration of the affairs of the nation. On the testimony of a Government expert they now produce one bushel of corn where with no more labor and no increased expense they should produce two and might produce three, with a corresponding decrease in the unit cost of production. By producing the 1910 crop of 3,125,713,000 bushels on 57,000,000 acres instead of using 114,000,000 acres they would release 57,000,000 acres that could be used for pasturage or other productive purposes. Their better attention to this matter would increase their profits and reduce materially the cost of living for the rest of us. The tariff rate of 15 cents a bushel on corn does not in any way affect consumers and does the farmer no more good than does a snowstorm at the south pole.

Texas Widows.

From the Washington Herald.

"In the development of the Southwest," said C. N. Stillwell of San Antonio, Tex., "which has been likened to the dramatic growth of the West, women are playing a prominent part.

"To three Texas widows belongs much of the credit for the greater growth of San Antonio, and another Texas widow has done much to establish the onion industry, which brought the growers in her district, that of Laredo, more than $1,000,000 in profits last year.

"These four widows it is estimated are worth at least $10,000,000, and they have been potential factors in the growth of the city and section. Out of their fortunes they have constructed great hotels and office buildings and perfected estates that are rapidly growing in wealth.

"These four widows are Mrs. Rozena Gunter, Mrs. G. Bedell Moore, Mrs. Elizabeth Kampmann, and the Texas onion queen, Mrs. Edwards Callahan Dodd. They are all widows of wealthy cattlemen, their husbands having died just prior to the era of development that has been producing such great results in both the cities and country districts of my State."

Kingsnake Against Rattler.

Greeley correspondence Denver Republican.

That Weld county and eventually all Colorado is to be rid of rattlesnakes because a pair of kingsnakes wandered away from the museum of the State Normal School and with their progeny settled down at Riverview, east of here, destroying all rattlesnakes in that region, heretofore infested with the reptiles, is the opinion of scientists.

Last summer W. E. Day of Riverview noticed a new kind of snakes which increased rapidly in numbers. As these snakes became more plentiful rattlers disappeared, until not one of the latter was seen there during the latter part of the summer and fall.

Early last summer a pair of kingsnakes, brought to the State Normal School by Professor Adams, disappeared, and it was supposed they had been killed. Instead it is now certain that the wanderers travelled to the Riverview country and settled there to do their duty.

Japan to Raise Sheep.

From the Washington Herald.

Dr. Ioda Tanamura, dean of animal industry of the University of Tokio, said that the Japanese Government has secured stocks of sheep in this country for experimentation.

"Herds of goats and sheep have been sent from the United States to Japan," said the doctor, "for the use of the Japanese Government in developing stock raising. We raise a few sheep in Japan, but no goats, and our purpose now is to get into the industry to a large extent, providing it proves profitable and feasible in our climate."