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Our Naval Policy.

To obtain an intelligent conception of the scheme of naval defence elaborated by the existing Administration, considering the vast changes that have taken place in naval construction, armament and distribution, one has only to examine a trustworthy map of the United States and its possessions. We have a few thousand miles of more or less protected seaboard on the Pacific and a good deal more on the Atlantic proper, measuring from Passamaquoddy Bay to Key West. On the Pacific coast harbors are scarce and landings by an enemy would be difficult. With the Bremerton naval station in perfect condition and San Francisco made safe the activities of a foreign foe would be effectively hampered, especially in view of the fact that such a foe would be operating 4,000 or 5,000 miles from the nearest base.

We hear much of perils of all colors, of the danger on the Pacific coast and of the ease with which marching millions could be landed there and put into pernicious operation, but military men know that all this is mere speculation by amateurs. Very soon the Pacific seaboard will be thoroughly defended and the landing of hostile armies the wildest of futilities. The Atlantic coast has adequate defences. All the navies of the world combined might make very slight impression on Boston, New York or Norfolk. Charleston is safe behind the outer harbor forts, and Key West can be defended easily against any ships that might come within bombarding distance.

Certain Southern newspapers are clamoring about the Mississippi Valley and the Gulf coast, and assert that Pensacola and New Orleans, the latter distant from the Gulf more than a hundred miles upstream, should be converted into naval stations and otherwise protected against invasion. The naval administration asserts that the best way to protect New Orleans and Pensacola is to prevent a hostile fleet from entering the Gulf of Mexico at all, and that this end could be achieved much better by closing the two channels from the Atlantic. The authorities undertake to show that with competent stations established at Key West and Guantanamo no fleet could gain access to the Gulf at all, and that therefore our southern coast line would never be imperilled. They might easily show, moreover, that in any event the Mississippi Valley would be safe from invasion for the simple and sufficient reason that no fleet of whatever size and strength could ever pass the forts below New Orleans. Admiral MAHAN has reported to the Navy Department his mature conviction that Guantanamo, Honolulu and Guam are the keys to our scheme of defence in the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, and he has no doubt been greatly aided in reaching this conclusion by adopting the expedient above recommended to the country at large, that of carefully studying the map.

So it happens that our fleets are not needed in the Gulf of Mexico. The occasional feverish eruptions in Central America may call for the occasional presence of some of the smaller cruisers. The battleships never go there and have no need to go, except perhaps at eccentric intervals to appeal to the multitude and help to make a holiday. When they must have repairs they naturally go to the yards nearest at hand, Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk. The same is to be said of the cruisers, destroyers and gunboats, for which Charleston and Key West are by far the most convenient. Why any of these should be sent 1,500 to 2,000 miles away to Pensacola or New Orleans when at least equal facilities, and in nine instances out of ten much better facilities, are within half or a quarter of the distance is a conundrum that sensible persons can answer in only one way. Of course these Gulf cities want the navy yards maintained in full force and equipment, but they cannot possibly have in view the efficiency of the naval arm, nor are they animated by considerations of national economy. It is only too evident that they consider only the increase of local population on regular pay and the beneficent effect of that arrangement on the retail trade. No other explanation of the current uproar in that quarter is conceivable.

Nor is it possible to prefigure the hypothesis upon which New Orleans and Pensacola expect the cooperation of Southern Congressmen in their demand for naval stations and yards. Apart from the Louisiana and Florida delegations, who is there of Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Arkansas or Tennessee that will rise to a passionate or even lukewarm advocacy of the purely local interests of New Orleans and Pensacola? And as for the rest of the States in the Mississippi Valley, to count upon their representatives to champion a cause so obviously selfish and so manifestly opposed to any scheme of national retrenchment and military efficiency would be ridiculous. Such men as JOHNSTON of Alabama, CLARKE of Arkansas, CULBERSON of Texas, WILLIAMS of Mississippi and LEA of Tennessee can have no possible interest in promoting a scheme so transparently absurd, so evidently wasteful. Noisy as the present agitation is and widespread as may be the clamor, it is difficult to believe that conscientious legislators can be won over to such a cause.

The Cotton Growers' Grievance.

Among the grievances exploited on behalf of the cotton growers at the Montgomery meeting a few days ago there is one in which the whole country can sympathize. We refer to their complaints of the frequency with which the Department of Agriculture proclaims its "official" estimates of the condition of the crop.

These proclamations begin early in the cotton year, often at a time when much of the plant is underground and a very great deal of it still in the problematic stage. They are absurdly inaccurate, of course, mere guesswork in the nature of things, and serve no purpose but that of stimulating purely wildcat speculation. The cotton growers are abundantly justified in protesting against this ridiculous practice. It constitutes an inexcusable outrage on the taxpaying public, of which the cotton growers form a large and important fraction.

Conceivably the Department of Agriculture is not aware of the facts. Only two or three years ago an agent of the Department was riding through the northern part of the cotton belt with some of the millers who were showing him about. The plant was then in flower, and a long succession of fields, thickly spotted with red, white and blue, aroused the immediate interest of the scientific gentleman, who at last could contain himself no longer and proceeded to congratulate the millers on their beautiful country and its astonishing adaptability to the growth of peas. He had never seen peas in such profuse abundance, and if he wondered what the farmers intended doing with so many it was only natural under the circumstances. It is probable enough that our old friend Tama JIM really imagines that his periodical oracles are of enormous value to the husbandman. At any rate he has a great number of scientists on the payrolls with nothing else to do, and he understands, none better, the importance of maintaining a bold front to public opinion. The consequence and value of institutions maintained by the Government have come to be appraised by the amount of money they cost and the general solemnity and splendor of the establishment Here the Hon. JAMES WILSON is on firm ground, and here, so to speak, he reigns without a notable competitor.

All the same the Department's published reports of the condition of the cotton crop, together with accompanying contrasts and comparisons, are absolutely worthless, as every one directly or indirectly concerned in the business knows The appearance of the fields in August signifies nothing even if Mr. WILSON'S agents were competent to draw conclusions. The weather, the storms, the rains are all potent factors, and these not even Professor WILLIS MOORE can predict; but the final and determining ingredient is the frost. Until he can say with positive knowledge that the frosts are coming early or late no man can foretell within a million bales the size of the cotton harvest. Secretary WILSON'S pronunciamentos, therefore, are the idlest of vaporings, and it is the most natural thing in the world that they should irritate the farmers. We do not share the belief of the latter that the department "experts"—heaven save the mark!—are in collusion with the foreign buyers when they predict a bumper crop. They are simply well meaning gentlemen who do not know what they are talking about. The fields look promising enough in July, and the gay flowers, now they are identified as cotton blooms and not peas, promise all things to the eye of the novice.

We cordially agree, however, with the farmers in complaining of the Department estimates and prognostications. They are entirely worthless, they cost a great deal of money, and even at the risk of dismissing a few hundred scientific gentlemen to some legitimate occupation they ought to be dispensed with at once and forever.

A Word to Darius Green.

In a book on aviation recently published is a picture of the venerable author of "Darius Green and His Flying Machine" clasping hands with Mr. CLAUDE GRAHAME-WHITE on the Squantum field. There is a twinkle in the aviator's eyes as if he remembered the tumble of Darius in his harness of wings and tail, and the smile of greeting on the hale old gentleman's face shows his gratification at meeting some one in the flesh who has made a reality of the opinion of Darius Green:

> "That the air is also man's dominion,
> And that, with paddle or fin or pinion,
> We soon or late
> Shall navigate
> The azure as we now sail the sea."

The story of Darius Green's discomfiture was published nearly fifty years ago. JOHN TOWNSEND TROWBRIDGE himself, we venture to say, was one of those Yankee lads who, seeing birds on the wing, took "a soaring leap from post or rail" and with flapping arms and spreading coattail wondered why he couldn't fly. Darius was 14 when he leaped from the barn in his contraption of hoopskirts, umbrella frames and carriage cover to "astonish the nation an' all creation by flyin' over the [Fourth of July] celebration." Young TROWBRIDGE was 17 when he left the farm to make his fortune. Is any other evidence needed to prove that he told his own experiences in "Darius Green and His Flying Machine"? Darius, that is to say JOHN T. TROWBRIDGE, was plainly a pioneer in the theory of flying, for, coming down to a later period, the early '90s, we find Mr. OTTO LILIENTHAL, with his arms thrust through the loops of a framework that was like an open umbrella, casting himself from a height and gliding to mother earth, his legs swinging to and fro to preserve equilibrium. A second "plane" being superposed, LILIENTHAL flapped his wings with better results, and toward the end of his experiments he installed a small horse-power engine in his double deck machine. The fabric Mr. TROWBRIDGE provided for Darius Green had a tail, and so had the Lilienthal glider. Two Yankee lads, the brothers WRIGHT, adopted the glider, improved the planes or wings, added elevation rudders, affixed propellers, put in a motor to revolve them, and the world saw the biplane in actual flight. The monoplane came after. Now there are scores of types of flying machines and men fly about the Pyramids and in sight of the Great Wall of China as well as in the suburbs of Boston. Full is the air of Darius Greens who do not come to grief, "an' all creation" has ceased to be astonished.

JOHN TOWNSEND TROWBRIDGE is 84 years old to-day. Since his birth in Ogden, Monroe County, N. Y., in 1827, he has beheld the wonders of many inventions that demonstrate the illimitable genius of man, and nothing can have thrilled him more than the aeroplane cleaving the sky at a rate of speed that leaves most of its natural tenants far behind. When Mr. TROWBRIDGE wrote his verses about the machine Darius built in the barn in old Monroe county the idea of man coursing the air in a fabric resembling a bird was entertained only by eccentrics; otherwise the story of Darius Green would never have been given to the world to amuse it. We submit that Mr. TROWBRIDGE has a duty to perform: he owes it to the inventors of aviation and its devotees to recant his unbelief in verse that will do justice to the marvel which he has seen in his green old age.

The New Spain.

The loss of their colonies by the war of 1898 was doubtless a heavy blow to the national pride of the Spanish people, but it appears to have been a benefit rather than an injury to their finances and their commerce. The national budget was reorganized in 1900, and since that time the treasury receipts have increased materially. Compared with other countries the per capita taxation is not heavy, although the national debt is large and the interest on it absorbs about 40 per cent. of the revenues. The debt amounts to nearly $1,800,000,000, and the budget for 1911 provides for receipts and expenditures of a little more than $200,000,000 each. Consul MORGAN, stationed in Barcelona, reports that "since 1900 all the budgets have been liquidated with surpluses except that of 1909." The deficit of that year is charged to the heavy expenses of the Melilla campaign. About one-sixth of the national revenue is derived from customs duties.

The war of 1898 cost Spain its commercial supremacy in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, but the loss served as a stimulus to greater trade effort in other markets, and the result of the effort appears in the import and export records:

IMPORTS.	Total.	Average.
1891 to 1895	$624,000,000	$125,000,000
1896 to 1900	588,000,000	119,000,000
1901 to 1905	670,000,000	134,000,000
1906 to 1910	860,000,000	172,000,000
EXPORTS.	**Total.**	**Average.**
1891 to 1895	$587,000,000	$117,000,000
1896 to 1900	605,000,000	121,000,000
1901 to 1905	612,000,000	122,000,000
1906 to 1910	805,000,000	161,000,000

The imports of 1910 were about $190,000,000 and the exports about $183,000,000. Some of the leading import articles are raw cotton, $20,000,000; chemicals and drugs, $11,740,000; coal, $11,300,000; breadstuffs, $12,000,000; fertilizers, $6,500,000; fish, $6,600,000; boards, $6,300,000. Among the leading export articles are iron ore, $18,500,000; wines, $16,600,000; lead, $14,000,000; oranges, $10,300,000; other fruits and nuts, $13,000,000; cotton textiles, $8,800,000; cork and its manufactures, $7,800,000; olive oil, $8,000,000. Cuba is still an important customer with purchases amounting to $8,000,000 or $9,000,000 a year, but sales to Porto Rico have dropped to $700,000 or $800,000. Shipments to the Philippines have fallen to about $1,500,000. Half of Spain's exports go to France and the United Kingdom, and Argentina, Belgium, Cuba, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Portugal are buyers in amounts ranging from $7,000,000 to $11,000,000. The statistical reports of this country show 1911 exports to Spain amounting to $25,000,000 and imports from that country amounting to $20,000,000. The record shows a rapid and large increase in the trade. Imports from Spain were $5,300,000 in 1890 and $6,000,000 in 1900, with exports for those years amounting to $12,700,000 and $13,400,000.

Consul MORGAN reports that "almost the entire Iberian Peninsula is known for the richness of its soil, which constitutes the principal asset of the nation." In 1899 an official agronomic service was established and on a larger and more liberal scale than ever before official effort was made to stimulate cultivation. Largely as a result of this enterprise the number of cultivated acres has increased more than 7,400,000 in the last ten years. Mr. MORGAN says that about 75 per cent. of the total cultivated area is given up to cereals. The wheat crop of 1910 was 130,000,000 bushels. The grapes of the country yield more than 500,000,000 gallons of wine, a considerable part of which is shipped to France, whence, the Spaniards claim, it is reexported to other countries. The Spanish wine output is about one-seventh of the world's total supply. Spain holds first place as an olive growing country and is the greatest producer of olive oil. The industry is reported as having been greatly changed in recent years by increased plantings and by the adoption of improved methods of cultivation and oil production. Waste has been eliminated and better oil is now produced than ever before.

Spain's important iron ore industry is said to be in a critical condition. This, however, is due not to exhaustion of deposits but to the difficulties of exploitation and the cost of ore transportation in the mountain region where the ore is found. Labor organization has also become a factor in restricted output by its demands for higher wages and shorter hours. Spain now has more than 9,000 miles of railway, operating 2,400 locomotives, 6,000 passenger coaches and 50,000 freight cars, and capitalized at approximately $540,000,000. Several years ago France and Spain agreed upon the construction of a trans-Pyrenees railway with a tunnel through the mountains. The French sections are nearing completion, but the work on the Spanish end has dragged and the probability is that the line will not be completed at an early date. The question of emigration has given the Government no little concern because of the number of people who leave the country. The year 1910 saw the departure of 191,763 people, more than 100,000 going to Argentina and nearly 30,000 to Africa. The total departures to the Western Hemisphere numbered 157,000.

Relieved of those oversea possessions that were a burden rather than a benefit, Spain begins a new experience in national development.

On his seventy-third birthday JAMES J. HILL was looking forward to the time when he expects to retire from business. The youngsters think of nothing but play nowadays.

The taxpayers of Queens borough, not less than President GAYNOR of that troubled subdivision of the city, are entitled to an early decision on the application for his removal from office. Mr. GAYNOR says that the strain put on him during the last year by the necessity of defending himself against serious charges, together with the efforts he has made to keep the work of his borough in hand, have resulted in his complete exhaustion, while the uncertainty caused by the possibility of his removal from office has culminated in the holding up of numerous contracts for public betterments, work under which should have been in progress long ago. The hardship and loss caused by this delay affects every taxpayer, and the condition of suspense now existing should be ended promptly.

The colony of Chubut in Patagonia is seldom heard of, yet it has an interesting history and excellent prospects. It was founded forty-six years ago by a handful of Welshmen who with their families left their homes for various reasons. Some were discontented because of politics and some over the language question. A few joined merely out of love of adventure. All were determined to found a colony where they would be absolutely free and self-governing and where they could speak their native tongue.

Patagonia was chosen for the settlement because it was then a sort of no man's land. The party went ashore near the present site of Port Madryn, on the east coast. They made their way overland to the Chubut valley, and there they determined to remain. The country was a waste and sadly deficient in water, but with infinite effort and hardship the colonists dug canals, with a main stem more than forty miles in length and including branches more than 200 miles in all, to irrigate the land. The result was the creation of an oasis of fertility in the Patagonian waste.

When Argentina annexed Patagonia in 1881 the immediate effect was rather demoralizing to the Welsh colony. Its people lost heart, feeling that while they had lost the protection of the British Government they were only foreigners under the Latin American rule. Effort for a time relaxed and there was danger of the colony going to ruin. Its salvation, however, seems to be in the new generation, which, growing up under the Argentine Government, is better reconciled to it. A healthy feeling has again developed, the farms are prosperous, and increased facilities of communication with Europe have had the double effect of providing a market for some of the products and of bringing many new recruits from Wales to the settlement.

Although the population has determined to adopt Argentine citizenship with sincerity, a genuine affection for the old country is cultivated. Enthusiastic celebrations were held on the occasion of King GEORGE'S coronation, and as a permanent memorial of the event a British society was founded.

New Methods in Fighting Cholera.

From the Monthly Bulletin of the Department of Health.

During the present summer the sanitary authorities of the city of New York have been called upon to deal actively with Asiatic cholera for the first time since 1892. Three cases have occurred within the jurisdiction of the Board of Health, the patients being subsequently removed to the quarantine hospital for treatment in accordance with the existing plans of cooperation between the Department of Health and the Health Officer of the Port. The general feeling that the resources of modern sanitation are adequate to cope with this problem has been evident, and the consequent lack of any unusual excitement, either in the public press or among the people of the city, have been the subjects of widespread congratulatory comment. It has been remarked that such a state of the public mind exhibits a great contrast with that existing during the previous threatened outbreaks in New York city.

It is indeed a cause for rejoicing that medical knowledge and public administrative methods in the fight against disease have advanced to such a point that the terror caused by the approach of cholera is a thing of the past. In this instance, as in public health work in general, great progress has resulted from the widespread education of the people as to the cause of the disease and the means of its prevention.

Medical officials now in the city's service remember the time when, in a visitation of cholera, the gutters of the streets were sprinkled with lime and a spasm of municipal housecleaning seized the city, the theory being that cholera was a filth disease which was generated spontaneously and spread in some mysterious manner through the air. Even mistaken theories may occasionally result in improved practical methods, and one rejoices that our forefathers were moved to the generous use of the broom and disinfectants, even if later researches have shown that these were primitive and random efforts in the campaign against cholera.

A Minnesota $3 Bill.

From the Minneapolis Journal.

A $3 bill purporting to be issued by the State of Minnesota March 20, 1858, two months before the State was admitted to the Union, was presented to State Treasurer Walter J. Smith today for redemption, with interest at 12 per cent. The interest claimed amounts to nearly $20. The bill was received in a letter from R. L. Dietrich of Lorraine, Va., with a request to please remit the money.

"The State of Minnesota will pay Thomas Cowan or bearer $3 with interest at 12 per cent. per annum from date until notice of redemption; issued under the act of Jan. 29, 1858," the bill reads. It is signed "Ira Smith, Treasurer; Julius George, Auditor."

FOR POLITICAL SANITY.

Time Now, If Ever, for Business Men to Turn to "Politics."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* During the past forty or forty-five years attention has been devoted by the people of this country mainly to the development of its almost inexhaustible resources, with the result that the business of the nation has expanded to an extent greater than ever before in the history of the world. It appears that business men, anxious after the pursuit of wealth, have left the rule of the country to other classes. Formerly business men went into politics to a much greater extent than in more recent years, and before the civil war, and when the country was smaller, it was quite the custom for the merchant to serve his country when called upon to do so.

Of late years, while men of activity have been devoting themselves strictly to business, as a result a class of politicians has become our rulers and legislators who have never had any business experience, are not in sympathy with and do not appreciate the importance of the business interests to the body politic.

It strikes me that business men should promptly act on the excellent suggestion of "Anti-Progressive," whose communication to THE SUN received editorial prominence in THE SUN of September 14.

In former days the candidates for the Presidency who pledged themselves to the business interests of the country were usually successful. Let the business men of the country unite and see to it that we obtain political sanity. Let them have an association that will attract the attention of the politicians running for office.

A Democrat by family tradition, I first voted with the Republican party in the year 1896 because I believed the Democratic party in that year, by its national platform and the candidate which it put up for the Presidency, was departing from sane business principles.

It is much to be regretted that since that time the Republican party has also been wandering after strange gods, and as "Anti-Progressive" remarks, both political parties are now at sea.

When a boy, one afternoon spending my Saturday holiday downtown in the fall of the year, I noticed a great assemblage at the junction of Wall, Nassau and Broad streets in front of the Sub-Treasury. On inquiry I was told that the Democratic candidate for the Presidency would address the business men on that afternoon, and I waited eagerly to hear his speech, for I had been informed by some persons that in the North, at least, the other political party was more strongly allied with the interests of the business world and could depend upon their votes. I heard a sound, common sense discourse, excellent and lucid reasons advanced why the business men should vote with the party whose Presidential candidate was the speaker, and a few months later this orator, the late Grover Cleveland, who wished to be considered as a business men's candidate, was elected President of the United States. It will be borne in mind that he was the only Democrat elected to that high office in a continuous period of more than sixty years up to the present time.

Has the time not arrived, considering the uncertainty of business procedure and the present unsatisfactory condition of financial and business affairs brought about by antagonistic legislation and Congressional and State investigating committees, when there should be a business men's movement throughout the country to induce the business men to organize for the purpose of insuring business sanity in legislation and government? Let the movement start in the metropolis, as suggested by "Anti-Progressive," with a mass meeting at Carnegie Hall.

A. L. J. S.

NEW YORK, September 16.

TRANSPACIFIC TRADE.

Australians Want a Steamship Line to Their "Nearest White Neighbors."

From the Sydney Telegraph.

Proposals to appoint a commissioner to represent New South Wales on the Pacific slope of the United States and to establish a new steamer line to San Francisco are the central ideas of a report which the acting Premier has received from Mr. Percy Hunter, director of immigration, now on a Government mission to the New World and the Old.

Australian trade with the rapidly growing Pacific coast, says Mr. Hunter, is not progressing as it should. In some cases it is even falling off. All sorts of reasons were given him for this decline. The outstanding ones which commended themselves to him were the tariff of America, the similarity of the products of the two countries and the lack of adequate shipping facilities. There are, he observes, avenues even now awaiting exploitation, but they are hampered by lack of proper shipping facilities. Among the possibilities are frozen mutton and butter, and fruit can, he thinks, also be exported from here to America with profit in the American winter. He writes:

"It is true that the withdrawal of the Spreckels line of steamers gave the Australian trade a black eye, but the fact is that the trade wants nursing and developing. It wants better facilities, which apparently can only come by education and agitation on this side, unless substantial financial assistance is to be given by Australian Governments. New Zealand has already a reciprocal tariff arrangement with Canada, and there is a possibility that something may be done in this direction between Canada and Australia. It may be the day is not far distant when the United States and Australia will discuss tariff reciprocity."

With the lightening of the tariff burdens the trade between Australia and the west coast of America, he remarks, will immediately improve, but without waiting for that event there is already considerable scope in meat, butter, fruit, skins and hides, hardwoods and other of our products.

A subsidy of something like $100,000 a year would probably go a long way toward establishing the line; and considering that Australia paid $129,580, Fiji $11,104 and Canada $180,503 to the Canadian-Australian line under the contract just expiring, for a much more protracted service, it would seem very good business at the price.

Another argument for closer relations with "our nearest white neighbors" is the great preparations and concentration of the world's attention with regard to the opening of the Panama Canal in 1915 and the great exposition in San Francisco in that year.

William Penn's Old School.

From the Westminster Gazette.

Chigwell Grammar School, where it is proposed to commemorate William Penn, who was probably educated there, must have proved an unpropitious alma mater for a Quaker. It had been founded in the reign of Charles I. by Dr. Harsnett, the High Church Archbishop of York, who was fiercely assailed by the Puritans and accused in the House of Commons of many misdemeanors. Archbishop Harsnett directed that the head master should be "a good poet, of a sound religion, neither Papist nor Puritan, no tippler nor haunter of public houses, no puffer of tobacco," but "apt to teach and strict in government." His pupils were to read the ancient Greek and Latin, "no novelties nor conceited modern authors." Opposite the school is the picturesque old King's Head Hotel where Dickens wrote "Barnaby Rudge," in which the name is disguised as the Maypole.

Cost of Living.

Knicker—War is getting too expensive to be indulged in.

Bocker—Yes, the presents I have to take my wife after we quarrel bankrupt me.

GOVERNOR HADLEY ON THE UNITED STATES COURTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In THE SUN of to-day I am quoted in an article concerning the Governors' conference as saying that "the time might come when Congress would have to abolish the United States Circuit Courts."

The statement that I made upon this matter was not intended to convey the impression that I regarded such a result as either necessary or advisable. I consider the United States Circuit Courts as an advisable and important part of our system of government. The idea I endeavored to express was that the feeling that had been aroused over decisions by United States Circuit Courts affecting the rights of the States had created in some parts of the country such a sentiment in favor of abolishing these courts that it might, unless checked, result in legislation by Congress.

As this article by inference at least created the impression that I was expressing my own opinion, I call attention to the error therein.

HERBERT S. HADLEY,
Governor of Missouri.

NEW YORK, September 16.

RIGHTS OF THE STATES.

Reflections Inspired By the Action of the Governors in Conference.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The assemblage of the Governors at their recent conference, it is believed, accomplished three things: it finally eliminated the names of Harmon and Wilson from the nomination for the Presidency; it secured the hitherto doubtful election of a Republican President, and it disclosed an organized effort to revive the chief issue of the civil war. Are or are not the Constitution of the United States and the laws thereunder paramount over conflicting constitutions and laws of any and all States?

It will not do at this date for Harmon, Wilson, Hadley, Aldrich or any Governor to declare that the right to secede from the Union was the only question involved in that war and that that issue is now merely academic. It will not do for a coterie of Governors deliberately to organize an effort to impress (threaten or bulldoze) the Supreme Court.

It will not do for the Governors to revive the theory that there are or can be any State rights that injuriously affect the United States and the nation at large, whose general welfare is the supreme law.

It will not do for the Governors to declare that only a State can directly or indirectly regulate commerce within its borders. Injudicious exercise of that power by a State would conflict with the power, right and duty of the United States to regulate interstate commerce.

It should be remembered that the need of that power was the strongest factor in obtaining the adoption of the Constitution of 1787. Interference with the exercise of that power would be a long step toward removing the chief argument for a "more perfect union," and would tend toward ease of disintegration.

There would cease to be uniformity, or approximate uniformity, in regulation or rates for railroads, for each Governor might secure a different rate or regulation. The last few decades by their laws and Supreme Court decisions have definitely established these principles secured by the result of the civil war:

Secession is unlawful.

State rights are many, but all are strictly local, and cannot be exercised in contravention of the rights of the United States as secured by the Constitution, nor to the injury of another State.

Every citizen of a State is also a citizen of the paramount power, the United States.

To the writer it is not believable that the action of the Governors' conclave will find any considerable support among the people, for they cannot be willing to reopen any of the questions involved in the civil war, nor can they tolerate the theories of candidates gone mad for votes.

No human institution has ever so profoundly secured the reverence and esteem of our people as the Supreme Court, the chief safeguard of the rights of the minority and the very palladium of our liberties. It is the "ark of the Covenant."

J. C. C.

BROOKLYN, September 16.

THE BARBER IN HAUSALAND.

An Honorable Character, Who Must Not Be Treated Frivolously.

From the Spectator.

Tradition gives the barber a high place in the social scale, due to the reverent manner in which his prototype administered timely relief to a temporary malady of the Prophet during his lifetime. The Prophet, so the story goes, had need of the barber's cupping instrument, and at the close of the operation he turned round and discovered no signs of blood upon the ground. He asked the reason and the barber replied: "I have drunk it in order to obtain your blessing. Had it fallen on the ground the ground would have been blessed, not I!"

Mahomet therefore conferred on the complacent barber and all his lineage immunity from hell fire as a reward for his meritorious though somewhat disgusting act. From this circumstance only men of some respectability are permitted to play with a barber. The barber of Hausaland is frequently a peripatetic tradesman, and is, of course, the great disseminator of gossip there, as he is the whole world over.

He carries the implements of his craft in a leather satchel which is specially denominated sabiru. A similar satchel is ordinarily termed jaka, such as a leather nosebag from which horses feed, or the bag carried by hunters into which they place the entrails of slaughtered animals. Such base uses are above the dignity of the barber's craft. Therefore if rude street boys and others whose bent lies in the direction of impudence, for the counterpart of the gamin exists in the city streets of Hausaland, shout after a barber the word "Jaka" it is a gross insult and can be legally punished.

For custom vests the barber with powers of retaliation defined with that minuteness and careful regard for trifles which distinguishes Muslim law, whether customary or lex scripta. A code of law which regulates the daily use of the toothpick with the same precision as man's highest moral acts would not, naturally, neglect to lay down penalties for impertinence to a barber.

"Any one not entitled to do so who deals in an unseemly fashion with a barber and calls after him 'Jaka' shall pay him a fitting recompense voluntarily, otherwise the Alkali [Judge] shall deal with him," runs the unwritten law as expounded to me with great solemnity when one of these cases came under my official notice. "It is only chiefs and the immediate connections of chiefs," continued an Alkali in a solemn aside to me, "who can play and chaff with a barber; and even in these cases a barber is entitled to pull out his razor and playfully scratch his tormentor."

All this fits in with the mental calibre of peoples like those I have to administer, whose minds are made up for them by professionals. At the foundation of it is the tribal communal spirit, which is seen in its primitive simplicity among the pagan peoples formerly in subjection to the Muslims. Here one sees in actual operation communal land, communal punishment by the community of a public nuisance within their own body, communal punishment of the community from the outside for the criminal acts of one of their own body against other tribes, communal isolation of infectious diseases, and so forth. Personal desires must be subordinated to the public weal, and just as offences to one's neighbor's eyes and ears are to be avoided by common agreement, so also are offences to one's neighbor's vanity.

Unless you wish, therefore, to gain a character for frivolity and instability avoid being described as "the kind of man who would say jaka to a barber."

A Society Note

From the Catholic Standard and Times.

Dear Editor, an item;
My last, perhaps, this year.
I'm keen enough to write 'em,
But news is scanty here.
Society's news fountains
Are growing very dry;
There's nothing in the mountains
But silence, rocks and sky.
Yet by the sumac torches
That on the hillsides dance
Late gossips on the porches
Spy out one last romance.
The beautiful Belle Summer
Who's flirted here since June
Has met a bold newcomer,
And she'll surrender soon.
For though by height or hollow
Seclusion she may seek,
Rogue Jack is sure to follow
And feed upon her cheek.
Rose branded by his kisses,
Her spinsterhood is lost.
Miss Summer now is "Mrs."
Her married name is Frost.

TOM DALY.

THE WINE CROP.

Prospects in the Vineyards of Many European Countries.

From Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

One of the leading commercial newspapers of Italy, *Il Sole* of Milan, published on July 27 its annual estimate of the wine likely to be produced in Italy from the vintage of 1911, showing 1,374,172,774 gallons, against an average of 1,513,197,816 gallons.

The two chief dangers to the grape in Italy are disease and hail. During the present year the country has been unusually free from maladies that attack the grape and very little hail has fallen. The quality of the wine of 1911 throughout Italy is likely to be exceptionally good because of the great heat that has marked the late spring and early summer months. The prospect of dangerous falls of hail is now very slight.

Of the seven departments in the consular district of Nantes, France, only five are wine producing. In the Department of Maine-et-Loire the wine has not suffered from cryptogamic disease, but cochylis has caused great damage. In Loire-Inférieure an average crop is expected, while in Sarthe an abundant crop is not looked for. In Indre-et-Loire cochylis has caused great damage, but a good crop is expected in Vendée.

The grape season opened favorably in Germany this year and the vintners were hopeful, but just at the critical time the weather changed, bringing rain and a falling temperature. It is now estimated that not to exceed half or two-thirds of a crop will result in most sections of this wine growing district.

In many localities the vintners are very much discouraged. The great numbers of insect enemies and the different forms of mildew have increased the care and cost of raising grapes, so that little is left for the vintner after all expenses are paid.

As one correspondent writes, the result cannot be safely predicted until the wine is in the barrel, as so many insects and diseases attack the growing vine. He also cites the increase in price of the wine in the hands of the growers as an indication of the belief that the yield this year will be less than normal.

In the valley of the Main, that is in Franconia, in May the outlook was more promising, but the unusual ravages of the heuwurm have reduced the prospects in practically all districts to such an extent that it can already be said with certainty that a third of this year's crop has been destroyed. To what extent the ravages of the sauerwurm may extend later cannot at this date be estimated. Peronospora has made itself noticeable in all vineyards, and as a result of recent unfavorable weather can be counted upon to continue.

Unfavorable weather has caused the irregular blossoming of the vines, and as a result the irregular ripening of the grapes must follow. Unless more unfavorable weather conditions follow to injure further the development of the grapes about half a crop may be expected, that is about 268 gallons an acre.

The wine crop prospects in the Saale and Werra valleys are not so good, and do not promise more than one-third the normal crop. Of other wine districts in Bavaria the prospects are about the same as in Franconia. In the Pfalz on the Upper Haardt Hills the prospects are for a three-fourths crop; on the Middle Haardt Hills, where the best qualities of grapes are grown, and in the most favored localities, the prospects are for barely half a crop; and on the Lower Haardt Hills a three-fourths crop is now promised. In the Zeller Valley, as a result of former widespread vine disease, the crop prospects are far from satisfactory.

A prominent Portuguese wine trade journal reports that the state of the vineyards in the Douro and the country generally is far from satisfactory. Frequent thunderstorms and a temperature far below the average at this season have seriously interfered with the fructification of the blossoms, which promised so well, and it is now doubtful whether the yields will eventually be up to fair average. The cold weather has also produced attacks of mildew and threatenings of oidium where the proper remedies have been omitted. It is, however, gratifying to note that farmers have generally taken warning from last year's failure of crops to apply preventives before the danger to the vines had become serious.

The Servian Ministry of Agriculture states that according to the latest reports the vineyards in the districts of Krajinski, Kruschevatschki and Smederevski are in excellent condition. In the districts of Morava, Nish, Pojarevatz, Timok, Rudnik, and Tsatsak the condition of the grapes is not so good and the harvest is not expected to be the best, although it will be better than last year's crop.

In the Swiss cantons of St. Gall, Appenzell, Thurgau and Grisons, comprised in the St. Gall consular district, 3,793 acres of land are devoted to grape growing. So far as can be ascertained the season has been favorable, the prospects for the coming vintage are excellent and the yield promises to exceed that of last year, which amounted to 756,055 gallons. Official statistics show that last year's vintage of the four cantons had an actual value of $318,550, or between 42 and 43 cents a gallon.

HINDUS IN CANADA.

Chicago's Religious Congress Said to Have Started Their Immigration.

From the Victoria Daily Times.

The present Hindu population of Canada numbers about 5,000, all men, for no women are allowed to accompany them to Canada or to follow them after they have arrived and settled. These are resident entirely in British Columbia, and chiefly in the cities of Vancouver and Victoria and on the farms in the neighborhood, where they are industriously employed in the many forms of manual labor for which they appear to have both special adaptation and desire.

I am indebted to Dr. Sunder Singh, the accredited agent for these people in Canada, for the statement as to how the eyes of the Hindus were first turned toward America and Canada and the first beginnings of modern emigration from India were inspired. He says that the visit of Hindu religious reformers to the great Parliament of Religions which was held in Chicago in connection with the world's fair first aroused these people to an appreciation of the advantages of Occidental civilizations and democratic institutions. The educational work carried on by American missionaries in the high schools of India also prepared the way for a sowing of good seed in a ready soil, the fruitage of which turned the eyes of educated Hindus toward this new world. Economic conditions in India furthered a movement of emigrants to Canada in 1905, when, and continuing until 1907, not a few came to this country.

Slang in the Courts.

From the West Publishing Company's Docket.

Slang has at last compelled the court to take judicial notice of it. An employee in talking to his foreman referred to a belt he was compelled to use which had a loose lap as "rotten," and the court, on appeal from a judgment for damages for an injury resulting from the breaking of the belt (Horstman vs. Staver Carriage Company, 153 Ill. App., 130), refused to hold that he meant "decayed," and said:

"We will take notice of slang phrases which obtain in these times in all walks of life, and not do violence to apparent intention by indulging in a literal interpretation of the words used, when such interpretation would do violence to the plain meaning intended by the use of the words when taken in the connection in which they were used. In stigmatizing the belt as 'rotten,' plaintiff plainly intended to convey the idea that it was his opinion that the loose lap was a menace and danger to himself."

First Telephone in Minnesota.

From the St. Paul Dispatch.

Walter Gray of Dundas, Minn., one of the old settlers, watched a man telephoning at the fair to-day and turned around and said with a smile: "How common a thing the teleph