The Sun.

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The Voters and the State Debt.

The announcement in Albany despatches that complete returns show that the voters approved the project to expend $19,800,000 for canal terminals, which was submitted to them at the last election, by a majority of 7,200 provokes two comments. First an expression of regret that a new debt was thus saddled upon the State, and secondly a satisfying conclusion that the smallness of the majority marks the end of the policy which has added $180,300,000 in bond issues to the burdens of the taxpayers of this State in eight years.

A glance at the following table will show the progress of State indebtedness and the majorities recorded on the several debt incurring projects submitted to the voters in recent elections:

Year.	Amount.	Majority.
1905	$101,000,000	245,312
1907	50,000,000	196,602
1909	7,000,000	69,092
1910	2,500,000	65,371
1911	19,800,000	7,200
	$180,300,000	

The amount that will be raised by direct tax this year is $6,000,000. At least $15,000,000 will have to be raised this way three or four years hence when all the bonds now authorized are issued. The returns of the last election indicate slight probability that another debt incurring proposition will earn popular approval for some years to come.

Is it too unreasonable to suggest that the collapse of the popularity of the preposterous canal folly, with its self-sustaining attachment, is coincident with the reimposition of a direct tax? Having voted for the canal improvement on the mistaken notion that it would cost them nothing the voters have now to settle down to fifty years of State debt sustained by larger direct tax levies.

It will go hard with the next statesman who tries to convince the citizens of this State that they can get something for nothing—perhaps be paid for the transaction by issuing bonds.

Playing Politics.

We sympathize deeply with those persons whose acute sensibilities are unpleasantly affected by the thought that the lawmakers in the coming session of Congress are likely to "play politics."

The prospect of five hundred politicians gathering together for the consideration of political affairs and actually injecting politics into their deliberations may well blanch the cheek of the stoutest. The amazing unexpectedness of such unprecedented procedure creates a crisis for the like of which history may be searched in vain.

One suggestion of comfort and hope should hearten the timid and sustain the brave. Most of the politics that will be played in this session of the Sixty-second Congress will be of the usual kind, which cannot possibly harm anybody and may serve a useful purpose in furnishing mild amusement to the judicious.

Where Goes the Money?

The notion that corporations enjoy fat profits at the expense of the consuming public gets no support in the annual report recently issued by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. The statement covers the returns from 270,202 corporations subject to the corporation tax. The list of such concerns includes many lines of business and industry, banking and insurance, transportation and communication, manufactures and trade. It includes practically all of the concerns doing business as corporations. The capital stock of the entire group is reported as $67,886,430,519, and the aggregate net income as $3,360,250,842, or about 5 per cent. on the capital.

The relation of reported capital to actual physical value of property involved in these many and various enterprises is clearly conjectural. From the point of view of the demagogue, the misinformed and the ill informed, anywhere from 50 to 75 per cent. of the reported capital is "water." As matter of fact it is doubtful if as much as 25 per cent. can properly be so described, but for the sake of argument it may be assumed that one-third of the $68,000,000,000 represents "water." Even at that the profits would be on the average only about 7½ per cent. on the investment, a rate that no reasonable person would call extortionate. The percentage of net income for financial and insurance companies is three and a half times that shown by transportation and communication enterprises and a little less than three times that shown by industrial and manufacturing concerns. The percentage of income return from mercantile corporations is double that from manufacturing and more than two and a half times that from transportation and communication. As far as manufacturing interests are concerned the notion of enormous and exorbitant profits is further disputed by the special reports of the census bureau. As it is these interests rather than the bankers, the insurance concerns and the merchants that are commonly supposed to be the greatly favored beneficiaries under the protective tariff system, the popular idea of the extent of the benefit secured to manufacturers under that system needs revision.

The tariff question needs a more thorough investigation than has yet been given it from the standpoint of profit margins. Because they are told by muckrakers and demagogues and misinformed politicians that such is the fact, many honestly believe that enormous profits are extorted from a helpless public by the producers of wool, by the makers of woollen cloth and cotton cloth, of tools and implements, by manufacturers of steel, of glass and of all else on which a tariff is imposed. On that belief rests a large part of the clamor for tariff revision and for the investigation and destruction of corporations. If the belief is properly founded, it would be interesting to know what becomes of the profits supposed to be made by many concerns whose product is said to be protected by a duty of 40, 60 or 100 per cent.

One concern frequently held up for public execration shows a net profit of about $1,000,000 on a business amounting to about $50,000,000 a year. It is said to be "protected" by a tariff of nearly 100 per cent. Another in the same class, said to enjoy an 80 per cent. protection, shows net earnings of less than 7 per cent. on a business of more than $100,000,000 a year. It is authoritatively reported that the beef packers make a profit of a little more than one-eighth of a cent a pound on their sales of beef. The supposed profit of the woollen industry is not reflected in the selling price of the securities of the American Woolen Company, and the common stock of scores of supposedly protected corporations can be bought by the armful at any time for less than 50 cents on the dollar. If these concerns are robbing the people under tariff rates that enable them to do so, where goes the money? What disposal is made of the wickedly obtained gains? This question has not yet been satisfactorily answered by the agitators.

The Sick Man of Africa.

One unforeseen consequence of the course followed by the negotiations over Morocco has been the simultaneous discovery by German, French and Belgian newspapers of a hitherto unreported figure in the politics of the Dark Continent, "the sick man of Africa." This is merely the personification of Belgium, whose African estate, like the European possessions of the Sultan of Turkey, interests several heirs, and apparently passes the power of its owner, it appears, to retain it.

The present claimant to the property of this "sick man of Africa" is, for all continental journals alike, Germany. Indeed in the German colonial scheme it is no longer a matter of any reservation that Belgian Congo is really the central point in that "place in the sun" of which much has been said recently. On the German colonial map it more than fills the place until recently marked "West Morokko deutsch."

The German conception for the future of Equatorial Africa is simple, as a glance at any recent map of Africa will show. Between Congo Free State and the Indian Ocean for several hundred miles extends the solid block of German East Africa, with Lake Tanganyika as the common boundary for most of this distance. By the terms of the recent Franco-German treaty the boundaries of German Kamerun, which touches the Atlantic at the Gulf of Guinea, will touch those of Belgian Congo at two points. At the present moment a railroad is being constructed across both German colonies to meet in the Congo Free State, the German transequatorial, and save where it crosses the Belgian colony it will be wholly on German soil.

The situation of a third German colony in relation to this German conception deserves notice. North of the Orange River and west of Rhodesia is German Southwest Africa. It does not at any point touch Congo Free State, but Portuguese Angola, just to the north, does. In 1898 England and Germany, being then interested in the ultimate liquidation of the Portuguese estate in Africa, made a "secret treaty" by which Angola was assigned to Germany, and all Portuguese territory between British South Africa and the Indian Ocean, including Delagoa Bay and Beira, was apportioned to England. But Angola occupies the same relation to the Congo State on the west as German East Africa on the east.

In addition to the Congo Free State and the Belgian Congo one other essential detail requires mention. When Angola is acquired the sole considerable interruption of the continuity of German territory from the Orange River to the Gulf of Guinea will be French Gabun, or what is left of it by the latest Berlin treaty. For this the Germans are ready in advance to exchange Togoland, which bounds French Dahomey in West Africa. True, Togoland is small and Gabun relatively huge. But the Moroccan situation may in the future open a way for fresh German "compensations" in the French Congo.

There remain two tiny enclaves, Portuguese Cabinda, south of Gabun, and Spanish Guinea, at the north. Negotiations for the latter have already begun between Germany and Spain; as for the former, it will doubtless go with the rest of the Portuguese estate. It is apparent that of these three nations France alone could resist, but French opinion is sceptical concerning the future of France on the Congo since Agadir; does in fact see in the Congo "compensations" the practical evidence that France has little but territories of exchange left here. As for the compensation to Belgium, the European press has already permitted Belgium to annex Luxemburg and retire from Africa.

There remains only one other heir to be considered, Great Britain, but unfortunately for the Germans, the British interest is considerable, and, as usual, it is an English shadow that darkens the German "place in the sun." For if Belgian Congo is the arch which is to unite German possessions on the Atlantic to those on the Indian Ocean, it is no less the span by which the British Cape to Cairo route is to cross Central Africa and unite Cape Town to Alexandria by an "all red" route. If Belgian Congo becomes German all possibility of completing the empire CECIL RHODES planned ends. Essential to both German and British schemes of African expansion, Congo Free State can fit in but one, and with such triumph for one plan the other perishes.

The rival ambitions of Austria, Russia and Great Britain in the Balkans and on the Bosporus have kept the "sick man of Europe" alive for two generations. British and German rivalry in Africa may do the same for the African invalid, but in any event European journals are doubtless quite correct in announcing the arrival of a new "question" hardly less serious than the Moroccan affair, now apparently settled for the present at least. As for the rights of Belgium, little time is wasted in discussing them, and it is perhaps to be conceded that the Belgian title if unassailable in law hardly acquires humanitarian appeal upon examination.

The Fighting Fleet.

Secretary MEYER in his annual report recommends that a battleship cruiser of the Dreadnought type be included in the building programme of 1912. Of this class of war vessel he asserts:

"It is capable of overtaking and destroying all vessels other than the most powerful battleships."

We should go further and say that a battleship cruiser like the Queen Mary (improved Lion type), carrying a main battery of eight 13.5 inch guns and with a speed of 28 to 30 knots, would be more than a match for any one of several Dreadnought battleships now in commission. Of these formidable cruisers England now has five afloat, Germany two and Japan two; building or authorized, five can be counted for England and her colonies, for Germany three and for Japan four.

The United States may have been too busy adding Dreadnought battleships to the navy to appraise the merits of these powerful cruisers, but it may be surmised that if the nation had possessed a real merchant marine, as distinguished from coast and lake carriers, battleship cruisers would have been on the naval construction programme some time ago.

Mr. MEYER tells us that by March 15, 1912, "the active battleship fleet will have been increased from sixteen to twenty-one effective ships," including six Dreadnoughts, if the Michigan and South Carolina are included as all big gun ships. There will then also be ten battleships of older types in a reserve fleet, the Maine, Wisconsin, Illinois, Alabama, Oregon, Massachusetts, Indiana, Iowa, Kearsarge and Kentucky, and it will also include the cruisers Brooklyn, Columbia and Minneapolis. These thirteen ships will carry less than their authorized complement. Of the secondary fleet the Secretary says:

"The department regards this innovation as one of the most important improvements in process of accomplishment, since it will insure the readiness for war of practically every vessel of military value. The importance of this may best be realized by a comparison with past conditions, when as many as ten battleships at a time, not to mention vessels of other classes, have been under extensive repairs and unavailable for war."

In the event of war, however, the reserve fleet could not be fully manned by drafts from the naval militia. "I feel," says Mr. MEYER, "that I cannot too strongly urge your favorable consideration of a plan to give the navy an adequate reserve personnel." It can be done only by enrolling the enlisted men who pass from the navy to civil life and assembling them from time to time for exercises, on terms which make it worth their while to hold themselves in readiness for active service. The necessary expenditure would not be large, and the country can well spare the money for the object to be achieved.

To our way of thinking there is nothing more important, if the fighting fleet is to be really more than a force on paper, than an adequate and never failing supply of reserve guns, shells and torpedoes. If the country were suddenly plunged into war at this time an outcry would be heard that there was an alarming deficiency in these munitions. The Secretary says the condition can be remedied "only by liberal appropriations." We hope the application will not fall upon deaf ears in Congress.

The Democrats in the House rejoice in continued harmony, a tribute to the ceaseless activities of WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

The distribution among the plumbers of New York of the $550,000 street opening fund now in the treasury of New York should cause unmitigated joy among the citizens to whom the money belongs. Under the old city government an excessive fee was charged whenever the pavements were disturbed. The plumbers paid the fees, and charged them in their bills to their customers. The excess amount has been held by the City Chamberlain, and is now to be refunded, not to the householders from whom it was exacted, but to the plumbers, who merely handled it as intermediaries. But why did the city charge too much for these permits in the first place?

Indiana Plan to Boom Weddings.

Logansport correspondence Indianapolis News.

Very few marriage licenses were issued this month, and Edward Hankee, County Clerk, with a view of increasing business, is running an advertisement in the local newspapers assuring all applicants for marriage licenses that they will receive courteous treatment, and if they desire they may be married right in his office. He also agrees to call the minister or justice and says he will see that they get a nice "write up" in the newspapers.

The Flower of Kings Gravelled.

King Arthur had just invented the Round Table. "Fine," we cried, "but can you invent one where nobody gets the chicken neck?"

PROTECTION TO PAWNBROKERS.

The Court of Appeals of New York has decided that under the present personal property law the possession of personal property by an agent or factor is such evidence of ownership as would protect a good faith purchaser or lender dealing with the agent from loss occasioned by his fraudulent act in disposing of it without authority, and shifts the loss from the purchaser to the principal who employed the agent and entrusted him with the property. The court also holds that this protection extends to a pawnbroker who loans money on property brought to him by one to whom the agent delivered it for the purpose of obtaining a certain amount thereon, and pledged the goods in the name of a fictitious principal.

The case was Freudenheim et al. vs. Gutter et al. The plaintiffs were diamond merchants who had a written contract with one Harry Levisohn by which they appointed him their agent and employed him as travelling salesman to carry a line of mounted diamonds and watches and to turn the net proceeds over to them after deducting the compensation agreed upon. Previously Levisohn had been in business for himself, and to carry out a compromise with his creditors, including the plaintiffs, had turned over to them certain pawnticketS given for goods pledged for him by one Feinberg, to the defendants among others.

While Levisohn was travelling for the plaintiffs he had an office on his own account in New York, where Feinberg was his clerk and housekeeper. On numerous occasions while he was on the road selling goods for the plaintiffs he sent by mail and express quantities of diamonds, which he had received from them for sale, to Feinberg, with instructions to pledge them for him and raise money to meet certain obligations as they became due. Sometimes he designated the pawnbroker, as in the present case, and sometimes he told Feinberg to "go to whomever you can get the most from." Feinberg did so, depositing the money to Levisohn's account, who used it to pay his debts.

Gutter was a pawnbroker, who made advances of $2,775 to Feinberg upon the faith of his possession of goods pledged as security, which were part of those entrusted to Levisohn to sell for the plaintiffs, and were their property. The goods were pledged in the name of Levy, an assumed principal, and after the discovery of Levisohn's fraud the latter delivered the tickets to the plaintiffs. The articles so pledged were worth $5,105, and the action was brought in replevin to recover the goods or for the damages suffered. The answer was in part a denial and a justification of detention by virtue of a lien alleged to have risen by reason of a pledge of the goods to secure advances.

Upon the trial these facts were proved, or evidence to prove them was offered, and excluded by the trial Judge. The court finally excluded all further evidence unless the defendants should first show that Feinberg was authorized to pledge the goods by the plaintiffs. This was impossible, so a verdict was returned for the possession of the goods or for the value of them. This judgment was affirmed by the Appellate Division, but the Court of Appeals reverses and orders a new trial.

Judge Vann, writing the opinion, says that at common law there would be no defence to the action, and the question for decision is whether the defendants can uphold their possession under the factors act. The plaintiffs insist that the act affords no protection because they insist that the contract of the defendants was made not with Levisohn but with Feinberg, with whom they had no connection. The defendants claim that Feinberg was not an independent actor but merely an instrument in the hands of Levisohn, and that as between themselves and all the world Levisohn as the real contracting party was the owner and pledger.

The factors act, now in substance a part of the personal property law, was passed in 1830, being modelled somewhat upon the English factors act passed in 1823 and 1825. The New York act is in eight sections, the first providing that any person in whose name merchandise is shipped shall be deemed the true owner so far as to entitle the consignee to a lien thereon for money advanced or for negotiable instrument given. The third section provides in part that "every factor or other agent not having the documentary evidence of title who shall be entrusted with the possession of any merchandise for the purpose of sale or as a security for any advances to be made or obtained thereon shall be deemed the true owner thereof so far as to give validity to any contract made by such agent with any other person for the sale or disposition of the whole or any part of such merchandise for any money advanced, or negotiable instrument or other obligation in writing given by such other person on the face thereof."

The court says:

It is apparent from a study of this act and the cases decided thereunder that the evil aimed at is the fraudulent disposition of merchandise by agents entrusted with the possession thereof for the purpose of sale, or the documentary evidence of title thereto. At common law the true owner could reclaim the property when sold or pledged by the agent for his own benefit, even though he had possession thereof and was apparently the actual owner. This hampered trade, deranged business and frequently caused great loss to innocent persons acting in good faith. Merchants would not purchase property and bankers would not lend money, although the terms and security were satisfactory, because they were afraid that the person offering the property for sale or as security might not be the real owner thereof, and ordinarily there was no way to find out with certainty. Thus the evil to be remedied was the danger of dealing in personal property with one who had it in his possession and was apparently the owner thereof.

How did the statute meet this danger? What is the nature and theory of the remedy provided? The Legislature did not simply make the fraudulent disposition of property by the agent a crime, for that would have been a slight value, as doubtless it was a crime at common law. It went much further and made possession, under certain circumstances, conclusive evidence of ownership to the extent necessary to protect a purchaser or a lender who acted in good faith and without notice. It thus shifted the loss caused by the fraudulent act of the agent from the innocent purchaser to the principal who selected the agent, entrusted him with the possession of the property and placed him in a position where he could perpetrate the fraud. It relieved the purchaser by throwing the responsibility upon the one who appointed the agent. If all agents were honest no factors act would have been necessary. As, however, experience showed that some agents were not honest, and that their dishonesty injured the public and disturbed commerce, the Legislature made it a rule that he who selects an agent must select an honest one or stand the loss caused by his dishonesty, under certain circumstances. The main circumstance is the act of the principal in employing an agent and entrusting him with merchandise for the purpose of sale. Possession is the controlling word in the statute and the controlling fact in nearly all cases. * * * The real theory of the act is that the selection of the faithless agent and the entrusting him with the property is the cause of the loss, and hence that loss is not placed upon the third party, who is wholly innocent, but upon the owner, because by appointing and trusting a dishonest agent he brought about the loss.

The court says that in the present case the contract was not Levy's because there was no Levy, and not Feinberg's because he did not assume to contract in his own name, "and a contract in the name of a fictitious principal may be treated as a contract for an undisclosed principal when there is one in fact." The court says that an agent cannot delegate his trust, "but the statute does not regard the dishonest agent as acting as agent, but in his own behalf as principal, so far as third persons are concerned."

Judge Vann says that the statute would be shorn of much of its usefulness by a construction excluding from its protection "one who did not deal with the furtive agent in person, but with his instrument who received the property from him and acted under his direction in disposing of it, although in the name of a fictitious principal. Such a construction would open the door wide for the perpetration of the fraud which it was the object of the statute to prevent, for if such were the law the factor would always send some one to make the sale or pledge for him."

The court says further:

The fact that defendants' testator was a pawnbroker has no bearing except on the question of good faith. Pawnbrokers are expressly authorized by law to exercise their calling, and hence are engaged in lawful business. The factors act does not classify or qualify with respect to those it protects, except that it does not authorize a common carrier, warehouseman or other person to whom the property may be committed for transportation or storage only to sell or hypothecate the same. If the Legislature intended to exclude pawnbrokers why did it not say so when it excluded carriers? Its omission to include them, and the phrase "with any other person" by necessary implication makes the act of general application except as expressly stated. As the statute does not exclude any class in the community from its protection except as specified, the courts cannot hold that any other class is deprived of its benefits.

The court says in conclusion that any question bearing upon the good faith and honest intention of the purchaser or pledgee is for the consideration of the jury, but the occupation of the person making the purchase or accepting the pledge has no other bearing.

THE PERIL IN EQUAL SUFFRAGE.

True Representative Government at Stake in England and America.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: *Sir:* As Mrs. Ida Husted Harper has lately presented in THE SUN her view of the equal suffrage situation in England and in California, I should like to have the same opportunity to give my own conclusions, particularly as she attacks a statement made by me in a recent letter to THE SUN. Concerning the English situation, which is very grave and is of vital interest to the world, Mrs. Harper says:

Why Mr. Asquith's proposal is not fair and satisfactory to the women it must puzzle observers at a distance to see. The Prime Minister's proposal is this: The Government will introduce a bill for manhood suffrage, giving a vote to every man, but not to any woman. If a majority of Parliament wish to amend it by adding womanhood suffrage, they can do so. On the face of it this may seem fair, but what are the facts? At present about two-thirds of the men have a vote, 7,000,000 in round numbers. This proposed bill would probably add 2,500,000. A chief objection to enfranchising any women has been that the electorate is already as large as it ought to be, and the reason the conciliation bill was able to command so large a support was because it would add only a million women.

The objections to the conciliation bill were: It more strongly divided the classes into rich and poor, and it discriminated against married women in favor of unmarried, it was based on undemocratic principles. But under no other conditions could woman suffrage find sound support; all other support is socialistic. England is now face to face with a struggle for her life against that element of hatred for all authority which overthrew the ancient republics and which now threatens France and Switzerland with destruction. This too has driven the sound statesmen of England to take extreme ground for an empire of universal manhood suffrage. Sir Vernon Harcourt, when he was the Liberal leader, said that "representative government itself has but one permanent security, the fact, namely, that the voter also wields the bayonet, and can if a minority will not obey coerce it into obedience." This is a situation that men did not institute and cannot evade. Upon man's ability and willingness to stand constantly pledged by his vote to the Government's physical defence rests woman's freedom to lead her own proper life and give to society its true tone and direction. The English situation is the most complicated that can be imagined. Traditional custom has permitted all sorts of aristocratic and class distinctions, plural voting, property voting, educational and church privilege in the franchise. A true instinct for righteous and secure government is making a noble effort to rid England of all these. What do the woman suffragists care? In their blind adherence to socialism they are eager to become rioters and bring scorn on their sex.

In closing her article Mrs. Harper criticises me for saying in THE SUN that I believed the woman suffrage success in California might prove the death knell of suffrage in the United States. The grounds on which I based my hope for such a desired consummation were several. In the first place, four-fifths of the women of California do not want the suffrage. I will give a typical instance. In a California city the Woman's Club, which consisted of twenty-five members, had called a widely advertised meeting to consider the club's action in reference to the proposed amendment. Twenty-three were present, four voted against the amendment and the rest in its favor and this was published as the almost unanimous vote of the amendment, seventy-two members being absent or indifferent. Nineteen votes were made to represent the opinion of the women at large. In the second place, a far greater reason is that this radical socialistic triumph in California has called the attention of our highest authorities to the question how far a State can go in experimenting with communism and remain a component part of the United States, which is a representative republic. The Supreme Court is now considering the question whether the initiative, referendum and recall are constitutional under an instrument that guarantees to each State a republican form of government. If it is decided that these methods contravene the fundamental principles of government through chosen representatives the election in California may be pronounced null and void, as may also the more irregular action in the State of Washington.

One point raised is whether so fundamental a matter as the changing of the basis of the electorate can be passed legally by a vote of those who voted concerning that measure, and not by a majority of the constituted voters of the State. The Supreme Court of Texas recently handed down the decision, regarding a case brought before it, that the initiative and referendum were unconstitutional in Texas. Another decision declared that the referendum might be looked upon as constitutional in that it might be construed to be a form of the right of petition. A legal question raised in California concerning woman jurors, and decided against their serving, because men only were constitutionally designated as such, shows that the legal aspect of woman suffrage is beginning to awaken serious attention, and this is just what has been needed. We have been such a free and easy going people that it was carelessly thought that everybody could do about as he liked and the women would submit to be the conservers of homes built upon lawful marriages formed for life and upon religious faith. There has been a rude awakening through dissemination of the recent teachings of women in books, on platforms, and in the press. The advocacy of motherhood by regulated State appointment, of institutional bringing up of children, of making the children of divorcees State wards, of trial and affinity marriages, of free divorce and free love, of cooperative dwellings in place of individual homes—these are a few of the "advanced" ideas advocated by socialist suffragists.

HELEN KENDRICK JOHNSON.

NEW YORK, December 2.

The Long African Forest.

From the Youth's Companion.

One of the great natural treasures of Africa is the immense extratropical forest that extends almost unbroken from the extreme southern end along the eastern highlands to the equator.

There are gaps in it, and the trees change in kind somewhat with change of latitude, but upon the whole it has the same character throughout. The altitude above the sea changes regularly with decrease of latitude. Near the Cape the forest grows at sea level; in Natal and the Transvaal its altitude increases to 3,000, 4,000 and 5,000 feet, and on approaching the equator it rises to 7,000, and finally to 10,000 feet. In the equatorial highlands the growth is very vigorous, and the forest is enriched with the "pencil cedar" of Abyssinia.

A Kansas Editor Explains.

From the Cunningham Clipper.

Our readers will no doubt wonder what is the matter with the *Clipper* this week. In the first place there has been no one got married, no one been drunk, no fights, no divorce suits, no family jars that we have heard of; and only one new subscriber to the *Clipper*, so what could we make a paper of? In the second place the editor's eyes went bad and we have been unable to work at the case.

Dogs of War.

From the London Chronicle.

The dogs which are helping the British forces against the Aliors by performing sentry duty are by no means the first to figure in the British army. When the Earl of Essex went to Ireland to suppress the rebellion in the reign of Elizabeth, his forces included 800 bloodhounds with which to track down fugitives after the battles; and in all our wars with Scotland the bloodhound was largely used for the same purpose.

CHIPS OF OLD WORLD POLITICS.

A Remedy for Dear Food in France.

While some of the leaders of legislation in France are devising artificial schemes to counteract the upward tendency of food prices, municipal butcher and baker shops and laws forbidding the speculative advancement of prices, there is broad ground for hope that the acquisition of Morocco may prove to be the real solution of the difficulty. At the same time it may provide careers for the multitude of young Frenchmen who seek to day a livelihood in public employment and are content to spend their lives in indolent mediocrity or worse. The condition scourged in the pasquinade of Labiche, in which he paints the ambition of the average young Frenchman as being to secure on reaching his majority a little job in a little bureau of the Administration, with a little salary for a little work, ending with a little pension after a life without effort and without utility, may be ended if the new conception of the exploitation of Morocco shall become a reality.

The outlook is best illustrated by a concrete instance. A young man, a native of Lyons, purchased something over a year ago 150 hectares of land in the hinterland of Casablanca. He had money, besides, to buy sufficient seed grain. The entire investment was 9,700 francs, or about $1,940. According to the custom of the country the natives performed all the labor of sowing and harvesting in consideration of receiving one third of the product.

The 150 hectares of land produced 1,400 quintals of wheat, which were sold at 11 francs a quintal, or about 19,600 francs altogether. Deducting the third part allowed for cultivation, or about 6,500 francs, the first year's harvest not only repaid the entire original investment but also afforded a profit of nearly 3,500 francs, or $700. The net result is in itself an ample reward for a year's work to the average young Frenchman, but in addition the investor now owns his land out and out, and therefore in the future he has the expectation of profits which seem almost extravagant from the French point of view.

The case is not unique. Others have done the same thing with more or less success, and the opportunity is practically unlimited. There are tens of thousands of acres in the Chaouia and the hinterland of the Atlantic coast cities of the richest grain bearing lands in the world, which can be bought at merely nominal rates. The Moroccan land has the extraordinary advantage of being already cleared. In Tunis it is estimated that it costs 400 francs a hectare to clear the land. In Morocco it is ready for instantaneous ploughing and sowing. There is an unstinted supply of labor on the very safe profit sharing terms indicated above.

The French are lamenting that down to date 40 per cent. of the land which has been put under cultivation is in the hands of foreigners, Germans, Spaniards, Italians and Belgians, but it is confidently hoped that all this will change now that France gets complete control of the region and that the cultivators hereafter will be principally Frenchmen.

Hungarian Pacification.

Once again they are talking of race reconciliation and parliamentary pacification in Hungary. The healthy condition has arisen that every one is sick of discord and obstruction. What is described as a great wave of fatigue is sweeping over the country, coupled with a sense of the negation of all progress involved in the wrangles which have hitherto prevailed.

Count Khuen-Hédervary, the Premier, has laid aside the army reform bill temporarily and taken up the budget as a less controversial subject of legislation. He expects to get through with the financial debates in a few weeks, and in the meantime he has hopes that negotiations now in progress will end the era of obstruction and permit of legislation on a sane basis.

The hopes for better success in the present attempt to end the race disputes than has been experienced in the past come from the popularity of the offers which the Government is making for the establishment of several new universities. Count Khuen-Hédervary announced a few days ago to a deputation of several hundred persons who waited upon him from the city of Debreczin that a new university would be established there in the immediate future and that the necessary legislation, including a suitable appropriation, would be introduced at the present session of the Diet. At the same time he gave it to be understood that a second university would be established at a very early day, but the seat of it has not yet been determined. Presburg puts in a very strong claim, but several other cities are in the field, and it will take considerable finesse to choose between them without creating new heartburning and discord. However, it is indicated that in the course of a few years two more universities will be founded in the kingdom, and it is hoped that any tendency to trouble making that may be caused by present disappointment will be held suspended on the strength of future hopes.

It may seem that this is rather wholesale university making, but it must be remembered that Hungary has only two such institutions at present, those of Kolozsvar and Budapest, and these, especially the University of Budapest, are so overcrowded that they cannot receive the hundreds of students who clamor for entrance every day. Their lecture rooms are overcrowded, the teaching staff is overworked, and the library and laboratory facilities afford the great throng of students no adequate opportunity for close personal effort. The two universities to be established at once are a crying need, and the demand for higher education is so great that the four which are projected will be certain of full attendance as soon as the Government can find money to equip and support them.

The establishment of these universities naturally will enable the Government to make important concessions to the linguistic, in other words the racial, prejudices of the various populations, and this is the one reason why the university project affords reasonable hope of a political appeasement.

Home Rule.

The home rule discussion goes merrily on just as if the Asquith Government did not picture the passage of the bill next year as a foregone conclusion. In his latest speech before the Nonconformist Unionist Association at a dinner in London ex Leader Balfour amiably described the scheme as a "dream of political idiots." The plausibility of the argument for home rule, he said, was based upon the analogy of the commonwealth in Australia, the United States, Canada or the German Empire, where you start from separate entities and make up a community. If the system succeeds in other great empires, its advocates say, why not adopt it in the United Kingdom?

"The argument is plausible," says Mr. Balfour, "but I believe it rests upon a fallacy. Do not suppose that the United States is stronger because it consists of thirty-eight—I think it is thirty-eight—at all events a large number of States of separate origin under the Constitution. It is not stronger. Do not suppose that the German Empire is stronger because you see within it the great historic States of Germany. These systems work well and they are a most legitimate stage from complete separation to growing unity. But to ask us to adopt their system is to misunderstand the whole working of human institutions. If you go from unity to federalism you are on the way to separation; if you go from separation to federalism you are on the way to unity."

Mr. Balfour also complained because home rule gave privileges to Irishmen which were denied to Scotchmen and Englishmen. The proposed bill gave home rule to Ireland next year, to Scotland a few years afterward, and perhaps to England in the dim distance. England, with no rights and no executive of its own, will look with envy at Ireland, which can manage its own affairs, while those of England will be managed by Irishmen, Scotchmen and Englishmen combined. "Surely," said he, "this is intolerable."

About the same time Mr. Redmond was making a speech before a Liberal audience at Rawtenstall over which Colonial Secretary Harcourt presided. Mr. Redmond said that he understood British opinion regarding home rule requires two conditions to be fulfilled. One was that the integrity of the empire should not be endangered or the supremacy of the imperial Parliament impaired. The second was that the rights of minorities, both civil and religious, should be safeguarded. He invited the Government to take care of the first condition, making imperial supremacy effective. Whatever the bitterness of Irishmen in the past may have been, the generation of to-day, he said, desired to remain within the empire, not as they were, but in their proper place.

As to the protection of minorities, he believed the real safeguard was to trust the people. Political freedom and religious intolerance could not live side by side. However, he was willing that in this matter also the Government should put into the home rule bill anything in the way of a safeguard that it might think necessary or that should satisfy the fears of certain sections of the Irish people.

French Budget Debates.

A cable despatch a few days ago told of the magnanimous conduct of the Deputies in the French chamber in limiting speeches upon details of the national budget to eighteen minutes apiece. The country is just a little bit ashamed of the performances during the discussion of the budget of 1911, which was delayed nine months in its passage by the flood of oratory. It appears that an examination of the *Officiel*, which corresponds to our *Congressional Record*, shows that 1,358 speeches were made upon the budget alone.

M. Jaurès occupied the tribune thirteen times, and he and his nineroscople faction of United Socialists, who are merely obstructionists kicking at everything proposed by the Government, have a record of 350 set speeches. One of the group consumes 6,250 lines of the *Officiel*, about 60,000 words, or the space of a fair sized popular novel.

The great joke of the reform effected for the debate now in progress is that the devising of a plan to curtail the talk was confined to a commission of which a certain M. Thalamas was made chairman. Thalamas was the greatest offender of all last year, having spoken twenty-three times on the budget and uttered 70,000 words, occupying 7,050 lines in the *Officiel*.

TIMOTHY MURPHY.

Who "Fired the Bullet Which Was the Turning Point of the Revolution."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* That Timothy Murphy about whom Mr. August Schwerzel inquires in THE SUN was no historical myth may be seen by consulting the following authorities on the events of the Revolution: Campbell's "History of Tryon County," Simms's "History of Schoharie County," Doty's "History of Livingston County," Lossing's "Field Book of the American Revolution," Volume I, and Colonel W. L. Stone's "History of the Battle of Saratoga."

Murphy was one of that band of frontiersmen from the Shenandoah Valley who composed the celebrated rifle corps commanded by Colonel Daniel Morgan of Virginia. This gallant aggregation of fighting men wore upon their breasts the motto, "Liberty or Death." Lossing says: "A large proportion of them were Irishmen, who were not very agreeable to the New Englanders." Their men attracted much attention throughout the Revolutionary struggle, and on account of their sure and deadly aim they became a terror to the British. Wonderful stories of their exploits went to England, and one of the riflemen who was carried there a prisoner was gazed at as a great curiosity.

In describing the battle of the Heights of Saratoga on September 19, 1777, Lossing says:

It was evident that the fate of the battle rested upon Fraser, and this the keen eye and sure judgment of Morgan quickly perceived. Calling a file of his best men around him, he said, as he pointed toward the British right:

"That gallant officer is General Fraser. I admire and honor him, but it is necessary he should die. Victory for the enemy depends on him. Take your station in that clump of bushes and do your duty."

Within five minutes Fraser fell mortally wounded. The rifleman who killed General Fraser was Timothy Murphy. He took sure aim from a small tree in which he was posted and saw Fraser fall on the discharge of his rifle. As soon as Fraser fell a panic fell upon the British line. They fled precipitately within the intrenchments of the camp. All efforts to rally the panic stricken English and Hessian troops proved unavailing. They could not again be brought into action, and before morning dawned the remnant of the British army had retreated to a more secure position at Fort Edward, the Americans taking possession of the evacuated British camp.

The ubiquitous Murphy is again mentioned as a participant in the battles of Schoharie and Monmouth, and his heroic part in the expedition of General Sullivan through central and western New York, and especially in defence of the fort at Middleburgh in October, 1780, reads like a chapter from a romantic novel. He is described as a man of handsome features, of great muscular power, fleet of foot and wary as an Indian. While he was not a man of any education he was possessed of a strong intellect and had much influence over his associates. His skill in the desultory warfare with the Indians gave him so high a reputation that, though not nominally the commander, he usually directed all the movements of the scouts that were sent out, and on many important occasions the commanding officers found it dangerous to neglect his advice. He used a double barreled rifle, which was something of a curiosity in those days, and the Indians, seeing him fire twice without stopping to reload, supposed he could fire as often as he pleased in the same manner, and they usually fled in terror when they learned that the dreaded Murphy was in their immediate neighborhood.

A volume could be written about the exploits of this gallant Revolutionary soldier. Unfortunately for his fame, his distinctive Irish name seems to have been a drawback, and I verily believe that but for it he would be immortalized in song and story, as some less worthy of his compatriots have been. He died at Schoharie in 1818.

M. J. O'BRIEN.

NEW YORK, December 2.

BANDAGES NEEDED!

Full Directions for Helping the Bethesda Leper Home.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Bethesda Leper Home is in need of bandages, old linen, cotton, cheesecloth, old sheets, pillow slips, &c. No colored material can be used.

Such material should be sent to my office, 1 and 3 Ann street, New York, and I shall be glad to reforward it to the home as heretofore.

For the information of people who are willing to send rolls of bandages instead of bandage material, let me say that such rolls must be not larger than two or three inches in diameter, while the bandages must be from two to three inches wide.

As I always make it a point to have the receipt acknowledged of every package, I might ask that always