The Sun.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1912.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	70

Postage to foreign countries added.

All checks, money orders, &c., to be made payable to THE SUN.

Published daily, including Sunday, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. President and Treasurer, William C. Reick, 170 Nassau street; Vice-President, Edward P. Mitchell, 170 Nassau street; Secretary, Chester S. Lord, 170 Nassau street.

London office, Lillingham House, 1 Arundel street, Strand.

Paris office, 6 Rue de la Michodière, off Rue du Quatre Septembre.

Washington office, Hibbs Building.

Brooklyn office, 196 Livingston street.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Waco Honey Trust.

The Hon. ROBERT LEE HENRY, sometime Mayor of Texarkana and now Representative in Congress of the Eleventh Texas district, was valedictorian of his class at the Southwestern University in 1885 and has stuck to the valedictory manner ever since. In fact there is only too much reason to fear that he practically monopolizes it. Shall not flowers spring up and blossom even among the icy hearts and petrified consciences of Wall Street when the mellifluous Wacoite pours himself out:

"Let it [inauguration day] be when earth's icy mantle has been wooed by golden sunshine into a carpet of verdure rivalling the kaleidoscopic grandeur of old ocean's emerald, when myriad millions of scurrying snowflakes round yonder dome have been transmuted into seas of April blossoms everywhere 'neath Nature's elements in peaceful accord. Here in this capital, robed in the splendor of springtide and with a beauty unrivalled in all the world, when God has summoned his favorite season to smile and speak welcome, we will induct into his exalted station the loftiest official in the greatest republic within the tide of time."

We have known saving folks to substitute the reading of this dulcet stuff for sugar; but the power to control is the power to abuse, and not even to the Hon. ROBERT LEE HENRY (who has put PATRICK HENRY out of business) can such a power be trusted by a free people jealous of its rights. Therefore, resolved that it is the sense of the caucus that the Waco Honey Trust be investigated by a special committee appointed by the Speaker.

The Vacancy in the Supreme Court.

There is nobody who does not respect President TAFT'S conscientious and deliberate procedure in the matter of judicial appointments, or commend him highly for the general excellence of his selections. He takes his time. When he has made up his mind he unmakes it, if there seems to be good reason for reconsideration. Very often he takes the press and the bar into his confidence regarding the successive steps and retrogressions preliminary to the final decision on his part.

This is admirable. Nevertheless the fact remains that it is now nearly four months since Mr. Justice HARLAN died. For almost a third of a year, for practically half of the working year, the Supreme Court has been dealing short handed with its vast and swiftly accumulating business.

Perhaps it might be better, when so competent a nominator as President TAFT is concerned, if the process of choosing a Judge were not conducted so much in the open.

The First Monument to Washington.

When DAVID JOHN LEWIS was elected to the Sixty-second Congress from the Sixth district of Maryland his interesting story attracted attention all over the country. Born in this country, the child of Welsh immigrants, he went to work as a miner when nine. He learned to read in Sunday school, studied law and Latin between shifts, and finally was admitted to the bar. It is gratifying to find his name now attached to a bill proposing an expenditure of Government money for a patriotic and sensible purpose.

Representative LEWIS'S district includes Washington county, in which lies the South Mountain, the site of an interesting and valuable memorial to GEORGE WASHINGTON, who, had he been so disposed, might have discovered an overwhelming public demand among his fellow citizens for him to become President the third time. This memorial was erected on Independence Day of 1827, near the town of Boonsboro, by volunteer labor, each resident of the community who was able to be present contributing his share. Locally it is believed that this was the first monument built in honor of WASHINGTON, who died in 1799. Mr. LEWIS holds this opinion. Whether other memorials antedating it exist is not a material question. It is a structure of unusual history, testifying in an unusual manner to the affection and respect in which GEORGE WASHINGTON was held.

With the passage of years, the monument has fallen into disrepair, and it is now in danger of destruction. Mr. LEWIS proposes that the Federal Government shall buy the land on which the pile stands, restore it on the original design, using as far as possible the original materials, and that hereafter it be maintained at national expense. The appropriation asked for is $2,500, and the annual expenditure to keep it in good condition would be practically nothing. While it would unquestionably be in better accord with the spirit in which the monument was raised to have its restoration effected by unpaid volunteer labor from the neighborhood, if this is not forthcoming the Government may undertake the task with perfect propriety.

There is something particularly appealing in the advocacy of this enterprise by Mr. LEWIS, but the project would enlist support on its merits were his career not brought to mind by it. Certainly there are not, and cannot be, too many memorials to GEORGE WASHINGTON in this country, and that any of them should be obliterated through neglect is unthinkable.

The Integrity of China.

The policy of the United States as expressed by Secretary of State KNOX, with which Germany appears to be thoroughly in accord, gives more assurance than anything since the beginning of the rebellion that China will be allowed to work out its salvation without fear of foreign interference. It is, too, a clear, definite statement of an effort to maintain the territorial integrity of the Chinese Empire.

Mr. KNOX'S note has come at the time in the nation's struggle when the two parties seem to be planning the end of hostilities and the establishment of a republican form of government. That peace and quiet will be immediately secured throughout the country would be too much to expect, but that China may herself be permitted to cope with resulting disorders where foreigners or foreign interests are not imperilled is the desire of the United States and Germany. The diplomatic excuses that might be urged for intervention if the desire for such action is present are many. Foreign nations have considerable financial interests that might be endangered by the unsettled conditions, the Pekin Government has not lived up to all the terms of settlement made on the suppression of the Boxer rebellion, nor has it made full payment of indemnities, and Russia and Japan might find in a rebellion in such a great unwieldy nation a cause for alarm for the order of their own adjoining possessions. Although intervention has at times been discussed and feared, no nation has taken the initiative in proposing this expedient for the settlement of the difficulties.

Neither the United States nor Germany has a desire for territorial expansion at the expense of China. Both have sought an opportunity for trade expansion and have consistently advocated an "open door" policy. How far Russia and Japan, the two countries that on account of their nearness to China are considered most vitally interested in the outcome of the present rebellion, may accept this proposition of non-interference is not definitely known. That they have already established spheres of influence on what is really Chinese territory and that they have practically partitioned Manchuria between them is pretty generally accepted. It was announced some time ago that Japan, backed by Great Britain, was to present a plan for intervention, but the chilly reception that the proposal, if such it could be considered, received brought forth in course of time a denial that any such step was contemplated. Russia, although apparently taking possession of parts of East Turkestan and Mongolia, has denied any intention of a permanent occupation. The assistance and support that Great Britain has given Russia in Persia and in the Far East have had a tendency to align her, perhaps without a good reason, with the Russian and Japanese policy of territorial aggrandizement.

The policy announced by Secretary KNOX is in pursuance of the old established habit of friendliness of the United States to China. While this Government has at times been compelled to use force in the protection of its interests, it has always been guided by the desire to assist in the progress of the Far Eastern nation.

A Good Selection.

A genius as an organizer, an indefatigable worker, a man of unfailing tact and unaffected good nature, and a born optimist, is Representative WILLIAM BROWN MCKINLEY of Illinois, who has undertaken to remove all doubt of President TAFT'S renomination. Mr. MCKINLEY is so full of human nature that even Republicans of a different way of thinking tolerate and like him. He is the author of the felicitous maxim, "We must be polite even to our friends." It lights up the man's philosophy and methods. Perhaps the only objection that the most radical Republican would urge against Mr. MCKINLEY is that he is a man of few words and considerable wealth. He has never been an orator, and yet he has succeeded. It is a consummation incomprehensible to some people. Of Mr. MCKINLEY it may be said that he is naturally modest and retiring, which adds to the mystery of his success.

In political management Mr. MCKINLEY has had his failures, of course; but they never shook his optimism, and the conditions were somewhat adverse. Thus he advocated and endeavored to promote Uncle JOE CANNON'S nomination for President in 1908, the Speaker being the choice of a State convention and the "favorite son" of Illinois. Mr. MCKINLEY led the forlorn hope with a twinkle in his eye and grave asseveration that "the general situation is favorable to Mr. CANNON" and "Mr. TAFT hasn't enough votes to nominate him."

Mr. MCKINLEY also managed the Congressional campaign in 1910, and his bulletins predicting a sweeping Republican triumph were models of their kind. He carried Maine in September and the nation in November. Would the next House be Republican? "Why, there is absolutely no question of it. I am just as sure of it as that I am in Beverly." As an optimist the Hon. WILLIAM B. MCKINLEY has always been incorrigible, but in a political manager it is a necessary fault, and admirable when the offender is unconscious of it. In both these cases of failure Mr. MCKINLEY resembled the man who tries to lift himself over a picket fence with his bootstraps. Mr. MCKINLEY was never reproached; in fact his fellow Republicans commiserated him.

There is an amusing incident in his career that shows how sympathetic and helpful he can be. On a wilting day in the summer of 1907 a dog oppressed with a shaggy coat came into his office in Champaign. Mr. MCKINLEY, after observing the dog's ineffectual efforts to find a draught to lie on, arose briskly, invited the visitor outside, and with a pair of shears the first citizen of Champaign, sitting absorbed in the doorway as he worked, relieved the dog of its coat.

Many other stories are told of Mr. MCKINLEY as a practical man who does things big and little in the right way and at the right time. His associates in Congress have found him the soul of generous hospitality; he never makes an enemy; enemies he makes friends; he is a master of detail; he always keeps his temper.

A great organizer, a man of ideas, a conciliator, and one of the most popular men in either party, the Hon. WILLIAM B. MCKINLEY seems to be just the man to insure President TAFT'S renomination with the least friction and the least offence to his opponents in the party.

The Battle of Belfast.

It is now clear that the much advertised "Battle of Belfast" will have to take rank behind the celebrated "Siege of Sidney Street," in which the Hon. WINSTON CHURCHILL also played a conspicuous if not a truly heroic part. In the presence of a military display which suggested Odessa or Moscow rather than a peaceful city of the United Kingdom, "Ulsteria," which has been widely advertised as a state of rebellion, if not revolution, dwindled into damp and inglorious booings, while pneumonia is the worst evil to be feared in consequence of the entire incident.

As to where the political advantage in the latest Irish affair will finally rest it is difficult to say. Unmistakably the cause of the anti-home rulers in Great Britain was materially injured by the threats of riot and violence which preceded the visit of CHURCHILL. The traditional British abhorrence of all disorder explains this. To balance this disadvantage, there stands the actual absence of rioting in Belfast, which made the mobilization of so considerable a military force seem unnecessary, if not slightly ridiculous, and suggests an attack of Ministerial "nerves," such as the "Siege of Sidney Street" revealed to an astonished world.

As to the main question, that of home rule, the remarks of the Secretary for the Navy at Belfast give little real insight into the actual details of the bill which the present Asquith Ministry intends to introduce and pass. The model of this country and Germany, so far as separate States subjected to central control are concerned, is evidently to be adopted. But how the scheme is to be modified to suit the actual Irish condition is not disclosed.

Thus in America and Germany the central federation followed from a compact entered into by sovereign States, while the British problem is one of reversing the process and deciding, not what powers Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England shall surrender to the Parliament and Crown of a United Kingdom, but what of the powers and activities now in the hands of Parliament shall be turned over to minor divisions, which in reality have now to be created or at least restored, after long years during which they have lost individual existence.

Reading the Belfast prospectus of the proposed home rule measure it is difficult to escape the conclusion that there was described in it an ideal rather than a possible balancing of all conflicting elements and that the transcription into law of Mr. CHURCHILL'S pledge of a home rule bill which will give the Irish majority real power and still protect the Irish minority, give Ireland authority in its own house and still preserve order and unity in the imperial domain, remove English interference in Ireland and continue English bounty to keep the land purchase system in operation, will be difficult and protracted.

It is clear, however, and this fact the Belfast visit demonstrates, that the Asquith Ministry is now about to take up the home rule question that has wrecked its Liberal predecessors. Despite the recent "Ulsteria" manifestations, it is equally evident that on both sides of St. George's Channel there has been a considerable modification of ancient antagonism. This is the most hopeful sign in the whole debate, and it doubtless explains the bloodlessness of the "Battle of Belfast" and the apparent recognition in all British journals that some sort of home rule is bound to come soon.

The death of ex-Mayor J. N. ADAM of Buffalo removes a picturesque and attractive figure from the public life of the State. Never in any sense a professional politician, Mayor ADAM was elected in consequence of the extremities in which Democratic politicians in Erie found themselves. He gave Buffalo an admirable administration and was subsequently mentioned as a candidate for Governor whose integrity and ability would command popular respect and give promise of party success.

MRS. SOANDSO WHAISENAME, a former Pittsburg widow, but more recently a New York cloak model. *From an esteemed contemporary.*

Obviously a versatile woman.

Representative LINDBERGH of Minnesota, author of the original resolution to investigate the money trust, takes issue with the action of last night's caucus. "My resolution if properly considered," he said, "would have been the most important in its effect since the abolition of slavery." *Despatch from Washington.*

The microscope of Mr. LINDBERGH'S imagination has extraordinary magnifying powers.

It is now plain that not even the Hon. WILLIAM J. GAYNOR can make the tariff truly interesting.

The Caution of Experience.

From Harper's Weekly.

"Mr. Bryan will appreciate a letter from you, stating your preference for President."

He shall have it. We will write him privately and confidentially.

Solved.

Knicker. What would happen if an immovable body met an irresistible body?

Bocker. The irresistible body would wait to be called.

NOVELETTES OF THIS DAY.

Amos and Gifford; or, The Loyal Brothers in a New Role.

It was a hard night on the coast. Chilly winds blew in from every State, and it became evident even to the Dying Gladiator himself that his raft could not reach the Chicago convention in a seaworthy condition. Then up and spake the old sailor, who had sailed the Potomac Main:

"Boys, I pray thee put into yonder port, for I fear I am all in. The way of the progressor is hard."

"Cheer up, Battle Bob," quoth Gifford. "Remember Amos and I are still with you."

"Your loyalty is my chief source of solace," replied the Dying Gladiator, taking a deep breath as if he were about to start on a six hour speech.

And so the raft sailed bravely on until it struck a snag. Instantly it sprung a leak and filled rapidly with overflowing oratory. The loyal supporters worked hard at the pumps, but nothing could stop it. The stream flowed on until the loyal brothers adjusted their life preservers.

"O brave Battle Bob, what ails you?" asked Amos with a frightened look. But the Dying Gladiator answered never a word, for he was still talking at the banquet.

"O Father Robert!" cried Gifford. "I hear the sound of guns; oh, say what may it be?"

"'Tis our ship in distress and she cannot live in such a Roosevelt sea," answered Amos, "and the thing for us to do is to cut loose and swim ashore and get on the T. R. Bandwagon at the ground floor."

Gifford took one more look at the fighting chieftain, who had now stopped talking and gone home to Washington.

"What's the matter with you, General?" asked Gifford.

"I am burning up!" he shouted.

"With what?"

"With wrath! You fellows have been giving me the double cross."

Just at that moment the Pinched Brothers dived from the sinking craft and left their "ideal of a progressive" to shift for himself.

Next morning Gifford had gone to the Canadian tall timber, but Amos dictated the following statement:

"La Follette's breakdown simply meant that we had to desert him and think of ourselves. With him down and out, Gifford and I saw that the only thing to do was to make a flying leap to a more seaworthy craft. Of course we are still loyal to La Follette; any one can see that by our actions. Indeed, with many La Follette men, we feel that Roosevelt is not so long winded as La Follette, but we all have the same conviction that the country belongs to the plain people and that the Government must be run for the plain people. We want to make it sure that an average man like myself can cast his vote for his own interests, and not for those who already have the jobs."

NO FRIEND OF CENSORS.

A Distinguished Language Reformer on Misapplied Benevolence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Recurrent manifestations of the "look up unto us" idea are always viewed with interest by students of human nature.

These pictures have been passed by the National Board of Censors, or other words of corresponding import, are being continually and superbiously flashed on the screen after many "playlets" exhibited in the motion picture theatres.

If the plays are approvable and approved, why not let the fact be taken for granted without supplementary advertising in chromatic titanized type?

An avviso of the above mentioned kind expressed in plain Russian may harmonize beautifully with the conditions and political atmosphere of Moscow and Sredne Kolymsk, but is neither applicable to New York circumstances nor well connotating when announced in the American language.

Why should the benevolent condescension of perfect strangers be spread at large to impress on freeborn and free feeling spectators a peculiarly benevolent assertion of "we know what is best for you" from a board of censors, which, if published statements are true, is composed merely of cocksuns who have never yet received any definite official recognition?

Benevolence may be a vice if misapplied; a vice if its badge gleams unnecessarily or humptiously; a vice if the proof of its exercise is too spectacularly displayed, rubbed in.

Why rub it in?

It might be more agreeable to some and salutary to all if there were a wee less of the "we will now kindly permit you" spirit abroad. JACOB BACKES.

NEW YORK, February 8.

The Income Tax and Other Taxes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: A Washington despatch gives the gratifying news that "an equal division of all the money in the United States would result in each man, woman and child possessing $34 61."

At the risk of being called a pessimist, permit me to call attention to the other side of the picture, which is that in 1910 an equal division of all the taxes paid to the United States, to the State of New York and to the city of New York would have resulted in each man, woman and child in this city having paid in that one year the larger sum of $40 58 as taxes. And what is worse, the taxes so paid per capita had grown from $31 42 since 1905, an increase of $9 16, or nearly 30 per cent., in five years. Nor is this the end of it. Taxes for 1911 were larger than in 1910, and 1912 will make a still worse showing, as the State Comptroller estimates that the new direct State tax, from which we have at least in form been exempt for some years, is to take upward of $6,000,000 out of our pockets in 1912.

Despite all this our Legislature last year ratified the proposed Sixteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution and is now hesitating about rescinding the blunder then committed.

Is it not time that the taxpayers should call a halt on the taxmakers?

STUYVESANT FISH.

NEW YORK, February 9.

"Some Roman Bloke."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have lately seen lists of those who are supposed to have been the greatest men on earth. Of course, to ask a man personally whom he thinks the greatest man on earth is absurd. No one could doubt the answer, but the incongruity of these lists is really amusing.

When asked Lord Rosebery said that he required a more complete knowledge of history and a better definition of "great," which was the most sensible answer yet given.

I notice that Julius Cæsar's name is not often mentioned, which reminds me of a story told about the winner of the Derby in 1876, whose name tallied with that of the great man mentioned. In order to inform himself upon the horse's "form" a sporting man purchased a life of Julius Cæsar. After reading it he said to a friend: "Funny, ain't it? It's all about some Roman bloke, and not a word about the 'orse."

IGNORANT BLISS.

NEW YORK, February 9.

The Unpapered House.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Being an old theatregoer, I should like to ask whether this incident has ever been paralleled in this country:

"On March 9, 1857, a performance was to be given of 'La Sonnambula' with Miss Priscilla Horton, afterward Mrs. German Reed, and a strong cast. When the curtain should have risen not a single person was present in the house."

The joy of the man in the box office and the ushers is not specified. L. T. H.

NEW YORK, February 9.

Procedure.

Knicker. What did Smith do when you refused to lend him five dollars?

Bocker. Threatened to haul me before the money trust investigators.

THE LOST FOUND.

An Incident Testifying to the Honesty of a Soulless Corporation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: A young man lugging a suit case and hat box entered the subway at Flatbush avenue one snowy morning about 8.30. It was almost impossible to navigate through the morning jam with this luggage, and there was a terrific struggle when he started to get off at Borough Hall. Backing out against the crowd rushing in, dragging suit case in one hand and clutching hat box in the other over a man's shoulder, pushing and shoving, being jostled, kicked and cursed in the usual 8.30 to 9.30 tragedy, a superhuman effort finally landed him on the station platform. Then he discovered the hat box was open and empty. A clean sweep. Articles lost:

One silk hat	Two dress ties
One soft hat	Three letters
Three knit ties	One check book
One bow tie	

These were trampled under muddy feet in car 3668 of a Bronx express. The youth gave a yell and tried to get back. Just then the train started and smiles of derision, hoots and jeers came from car 3668.

Next day he went to the lost and found department. The first sight that greeted him was a gray haired clerk wearing a battered silk hat in jaunty fashion on the side of his head—his hat. These are the articles he recovered:

One silk hat—Dented and greasy.
One soft hat—Greasy.
Three knit ties—Greasy.
One bow tie—Greasy.
Two letters—Torn and greasy.
One check book—Balance as low as ever.
Items still lost:
Two dress ties. One letter (from her).

Not a bad record of honesty for a corporation "criminal and crooked" from president to humblest trainman.

NEW YORK, February 7. S. W. F., Jr.

WAS CROMWELL A CELT?

And Did the American Indians Play the Celtic Game of Hurley?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I came across a couple of questions and answers in an Irish paper that I thought would interest some of your readers. I send them to you just as they are:

(1) I have heard that the game of hurley is played by the American Indians. Is there any foundation for this story?

Yes. Captain Basil Hill (Hall), who certainly knew nothing about the Irish game, describes in his "Travels" a game he saw played by the Creek Indians. It was identical with our national game.

(2) I have heard it said that Cromwell was not really English. Is that so?

It is. Cromwell's mother was a Scotch Celt and his father a Welsh Celt. Neither was his true name Cromwell. His people assumed the name.

If the red men played the ancient Irish game it would appear an additional argument that Irish navigators landed here before Columbus. Do any of your readers know the real name of Cromwell's family?

CORMAC O'CEROIL BERA.

NEW YORK, February 9.

VACCINATION IN SIAM.

Another Triumph Recorded for Jenner's Discovery.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In view of the anti-vaccination opinions held in this country the official report for the city of Bangkok, Siam, covering the time from October 14 to December 9, 1911, is of interest. Deaths from smallpox in the first week numbered 14, by December they rose to 74. This shows what happens where there is no compulsory vaccination for smallpox, and it has been my unfortunate lot to see the results.

I have seen in a single village in Siam fifteen to twenty children stone blind from the effect of the disease. In the epidemic of 1902 in the north of Siam in many villages 75 per cent. of all unvaccinated children under five years of age died from the disease. This was because the adults of the population were simply immune because they were the survivors of previous epidemics and had had the disease.

It was my privilege, together with another physician, to make the first smallpox vaccine ever made in the Kingdom of Siam, and the Government vaccinators vaccinated 400,000 children in two years without a single bad result.

At the present time the Government of Siam is endeavoring to vaccinate all of the people, offering vaccination free to them. The King and Queen Mother both set the example by being vaccinated.

When I was in Siam smallpox broke out in the village of Tatchin, and before we were notified there were a large number of deaths, more than a hundred. Fast steam launches with a number of vaccinators and plenty of vaccine were sent at once, and the whole population of about 4,000 people was vaccinated. Nothing was done besides this, no sanitation attempted, but inside of one week the epidemic was over as far as any new cases were concerned. Tatchin has not known smallpox since outside of isolated cases, brought from without. Newborn children are vaccinated each year.

Siam is endeavoring to emulate the work of the United States Government in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, where smallpox, after flourishing for four hundred years under Spanish rule has been absolutely stamped on by vaccination.

It will not be accomplished, however, until the Siamese Government adopts compulsory vaccination, as under the present voluntary vaccination many thousands of coolies from China, as well as Siamese, are unvaccinated and spread the disease.

CHARLES S. BRADDOCK, Jr.
Late Chief Medical Inspector Royal Siamese Government.

NEW YORK, February 8.

Squelching Old Calamity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The brazen impudence of the Peerless Nuisance in projecting himself into the councils of the Democrats in Congress has been severely rebuked again. However, as he is a pachyderm it will not make much difference.

It is to be hoped the Democratic party will continue to recognize the wise leadership of Mr. Underwood and attend to its own business, not allowing outside interference.

It is a pity that Mr. Underwood did not adhere inflexibly to his position without making a concession, though perhaps it was wise to do so. In dealing with Bryanism backbone is required, and the stronger the better. E. T. W.

NEW YORK, February 9.

Diversions of the Anagram Club.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Is it not strange that the line, "For President, Woodrow Wilson," may by mere transposition of the same letters read: "Poor W. W.'s friends lie or won't do?"

Under like method, "For President, William Howard Taft" becomes, "Oh, I find a fall tip. Two terms reward."

"What's in a name?"

HARRY P. LEONARD.

NEW YORK, February 9.

Trying to Make the Manhattan Philosopher Peripatetic.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: If "E. H. J.," the "Manhattan Philosopher," would take a brisk walk of five miles every day I venture to predict that his point of view would be so radically changed that his letters would be scarcely recognizable. In fact I believe that in time he would even be able to see the doughnut instead of the hole. A. B. H.

GENEVA, February 9.

Genius.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Every woman and every child is a genius. When a man is a genius he has some of the traits of women and children. He has the brightness of a child and the courage of a woman.

ALPHONSE DOUCETIE.

NEW YORK, February 9.

Waking to Ecstasy the Jersey Lyre.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Listen!

He sits, demure, upon the fence,
Nor heeds invectives at him hurled
By his erstwhile constituents:
Just beams, in silent eloquence,
Our Playboy of the Western World.

PATERSON, N. J., February 9. HENMORE.

NEW YORK'S FIRE HAZARD.

Danger of a Conflagration Declared to Be Nonexistent.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: An advertisement for a building material exhibition held in New York last week commenced with these words:

New York fire conditions most dangerous in the world. So say experts on this subject. They tell us that New York is more likely to have a conflagration than were San Francisco and Baltimore.

Similar statements have been made after almost every large fire and at other times in recent years. We shall probably hear them after every big fire in the future, but probably we shall never see the conflagration so often predicted.

It has been sixty-seven years since there was a conflagration in this city, and none of the principal causes of the conflagrations which have occurred in recent years in other cities now exist in this city.

They say "experts" predict a conflagration. Who are experts? Worcester's Dictionary says that an expert is "one who is expert or experienced; a person having skill, experience or peculiar knowledge on certain subjects," which in this case means one who has knowledge of and is experienced and skilled in extinguishing fires and the fire service in general, a member or a former member of the Fire Department. There are many such experts in this city, but none of them as yet has predicted a conflagration here, and several of the most competent of them have said that one is well nigh impossible, or words to that effect, and until some real expert predicts a conflagration here the public should take with a grain of salt the predictions of the alleged experts, some of whom may have ulterior motives in making such predictions.

The last conflagration in New York occurred July 19, 1845, when the fire apparatus consisted wholly of old style, small size hand engines. Several explosions at the beginning of the conflagration set fire to many adjoining buildings, and before many of the engines could be assembled at the fire it had got beyond control. Never since that great fire has there been a fire in this city which destroyed more than two or three buildings, and many thousands of fires have been confined to the buildings in which they originated.

High pressure water service, buildings more nearly fireproof in which fires seldom occur, increase of fire apparatus, larger engines, larger hose, automobile apparatus, better instruction for firemen, and many other improvements in equipment and methods of fire extinguishment and in fire conditions in general installed in recent years have greatly decreased the conflagration and large fire hazard, but have not decreased the predictions of a sweeping conflagration by the so-called experts. In former years when there were no so-called fireproof buildings, when there were many buildings filled with oil, cotton, &c., and explosives of all kinds, which is now prohibited, in which there were many fires, when the water supply was limited and insufficient, when fire engines were few in number and small in size in comparison with those of the present time, when water towers, aerial ladders and many other important machines now used were unknown, when there were many fewer firemen than now, and when the fire hazard was much greater and the fire service less efficient than it is at the present time, all the fires were confined to the buildings in which they originated, or two or three adjoining buildings, and on several occasions there were several three or four alarm fires burning in different sections of the city at the same time. There were no conflagrations under those excellent conflagration conditions, and unless different conditions exist than at the present time it is not probable that there will be a conflagration here, the "experts" to the contrary notwithstanding.

Predicted conflagrations seldom occur, and never from the causes feared by the prophets. Under ordinary conditions conflagrations hardly ever occur. All the great conflagrations of the past were caused by unusual conditions, most of which could not have been foreseen or prevented.

The Chicago conflagration of 1871 was caused by a three months drought, a high wind, and firemen exhausted by a large lumber yard fire the preceding night. The Boston conflagration of 1872 was caused by delay in sending in an alarm, an insufficient water supply due to small, badly corroded water mains, and to sick horses. The Baltimore conflagration of 1904 was caused by an explosion at its commencement which set fire to many adjoining large mercantile buildings, causing the fire to get beyond control before all the fire apparatus could reach it, and within five minutes of its discovery. The San Francisco conflagration of 1906 was caused by the destruction of the water supply system by an earthquake. The Chelsea conflagration of 1908 was caused by a gale which carried burning embers to many buildings throughout what became the fire zone within a few minutes of its commencement. None of these conditions now exists in New York, nor any other conditions which will probably cause a fire that will destroy more than two or three buildings or be any larger than many which have occurred in the past.

No city is better protected against the possibility of a conflagration, so far as water is concerned than New York. If its water supply should become useless, which is not probable, that section of the city most liable to have a conflagration (below Fifty-ninth street) has rivers on both sides for its fire engines to draw water from, as the old hand engines often did with success many years ago. Steam fire engines can pass salt water from one to another, as was so often done by the old manual fire engines.

Only the largest of cities can maintain a conflagration size fire department. New York is one of them. It was twenty-seven hours before Baltimore assembled fifty-four engines, including those from thirteen cities and towns, including New York and Philadelphia, at the time of its conflagration. New York can assemble that number of engines inside of an hour, twice that number inside of two hours, and nearly four times that number inside of three or four hours, without going outside of the city limits. This alone guarantees the city against a conflagration even if its water supply is disabled.

For many years they have been informing us that the fire alarm telegraph system of this city is antiquated, unreliable and likely to become useless at any time, but the faithful and reliable old system goes right along performing the service required of it promptly and accurately. Recently they have informed us that the more modern Brooklyn fire alarm telegraph system is "dangerously unreliable," its perfect service gives no such indications.

Theorists can always present plausible arguments which are convincing to laymen. They are doing so relative to possible conflagrations in this city, but sixty-seven years of experience has demonstrated beyond question that the Fire Department can prevent conflagrations, and that it has many times done so when it was much smaller and less effective than it is now and when the fire hazard was many times greater than it is at the present time.

Unless some unusual and improbable conditions caused by the elements or something which cannot be foreseen exist, a conflagration in New York city is well nigh impossible, as near impossible as anything can be. FIRE FACTS.

BROOKLYN, February 7.

The Spirit of Fair Play in the Campaign.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Another thought about Colonel Roosevelt: If successful in his efforts to be nominated, could he overcome the almighty force, unwritten but as insurmountable as the laws of gravitation, the even handed justice of which *Macbeth* speaks, or the grandest characteristic of our nation, the spirit of American fair play? S. J. T.

NEW YORK, February 9.

Dickensite to Dickensite.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: May I take the liberty of reminding "W. T. R." that "bishop" is not a hot drink; also that Miss Trotwood drank white wine (not port) with her toast, and that it was Bob Gliddery who came from the Fellowship Porters. Let us be accurate.

CHARLES DRESSEL.

NEWARK, N. J., February 9.

If the English dictionaries may be trusted, bishop is a hot drink. Philip's "A Dictionary of Dickens" (London, 1909) registers Bob "Glibbery."

Pennsylvania Woman's Darning Gourd.

From the Philadelphia Record.

"I have a pretty big family and have to darn three days a week. I broke my gourd a month ago and this here thing comes in pretty handy, so I thought I would use it," was the explanation offered by an old lady at Hershey, near Lebanon, when it was discovered she was putting a six party telephone line out of service three days each week for several weeks by detaching the receiver to use as a darning gourd.

Hanging on Lincoln.

Lives of famous men remind us
We may make our lives sublime
And departing leave behind us
Coat tails up which men may climb.

TO MAKE INQUIRY INTO FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Resolution Giving Authority to the Banking and Currency Committee.

BROAD POWERS CONFERRED

The Term "Money Trust" Doesn't Appear in the Resolution—Statement by Chairman Pujo.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9. A resolution investing the House Committee on Banking and Currency with power to make an inquiry into financial conditions with a view to preparing remedial legislation if the facts collected warrant such a course was introduced to-day by Representative Pujo of Louisiana, chairman of the committee. The Pujo resolution was presented in accordance with instructions by the recent Democratic caucus.

The term "money trust" does not appear in the Pujo resolution. It directs the committee to make an inquiry into financial conditions and to report what changes, if any, should be made in the banking and currency laws. Broad powers are conferred upon the committee. It is authorized to enforce the attendance of witnesses and to compel the production of books and papers. Here is the resolution:

Whereas, the Committee on Banking and Currency is vested with the power to propose to the House all legislation relating to banking and currency, and

Whereas, said committee is desirous of securing full and complete information regarding the banking and currency conditions of the country for the purpose of determining what legislation is needed; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Banking and Currency, as a whole or by subcommittee, is authorized to sit during the sessions of the House and the recess of Congress and compel the attendance of witnesses and to send for persons and papers and to administer oaths to witnesses and to employ expert counsel, accountants, clerical and other assistants.

The cost and expenses of said committee shall be paid from the contingent fund of the House of Representatives. Said expense shall be paid on the audit and order of the chairman or acting chairman of the committee. The Speaker shall have authority to sign and the clerk to attest subpœnas during the session or recess of Congress.

In commenting on the resolution Chairman Pujo said:

"This resolution has been introduced by me on my own responsibility and reflects only my personal views. The resolution in the order of procedure will be referred to the Committee on Rules and will no doubt be promptly reported, as it is my intention to ask the committee to have a special meeting to consider the resolution.

"There has been much loose talk by uninformed persons about monopolistic control of financial conditions in this country. Should such conditions exist no doubt legislation along proper lines will not only be recommended by the Committee on Banking and Currency but will be enacted by the House. The monetary system of this country in my judgment is a scientific and not a political question. It should be investigated and considered along these lines.

"Those who are attempting to have the reforms of our monetary system considered along political and partisan lines have not at heart the interests of the people of this country. There has been criticism with reference to the attitude of the Committee on Banking and Currency as to true monetary reform. I have served many years with most of the members on that committee and I am sure that any suggested legislation which means an improvement of our present conditions will be given careful and fair hearing."

While the Pujo resolution has not been formally passed on by Mr. Pujo's Democratic associates, it is known that it goes with the approval of practically all of them. It was discussed at an informal conference of the Democrats held late in the day, after which the measure was introduced.

The indications are that the resolution will be reported promptly by the House Committee on Rules, of which Representative Henry of Texas is chairman. Upon approval by the House Chairman Pujo will set the inquiry in motion. No effort will be made to submit a report at this session. The resolution authorizes the committee to sit and hold hearings during recesses of Congress. Under this authority the committee will hold a number of meetings following the adjournment of Congress. It is the general expectation that a report will be submitted to the House some time during the session of Congress beginning December next.

As told in a Washington despatch to THE SUN a day or two ago, William J. Bryan will in all probability be the first witness to appear. Mr. Bryan will be invited to make recommendations for changes in the monetary laws. The committee wants his advice and counsel. Incidentally Mr. Bryan may be asked upon what he based his editorial declarations in the *Commoner* that the Banking and Currency Committee was "packed" with men who would not be disposed to make such a thorough inquiry of the activities of the money trust as was proposed in the Henry and Lindbergh resolutions.

CORTELYOU DENIES IT.

Says the Late Senator Platt Didn't Influence Fraud Order Against Lewis.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9. Former Postmaster-General George B. Cortelyou, testifying to-day before the House Committee on Expenditures in the Post Office Department, denied that the late Senator Platt, the express companies or any other "extraordinary influences" had anything to do with the issuance by him in 1907 of a fraud order against the Lewis Publishing Company of St. Louis or the Lewis bank.

Mr. Cortelyou was before the committee to answer charges made by Lewis that the Post Office Department, by issuing the fraud order against the People's Banking and the *Woman's Farm Journal* and the *Woman's Magazine* from second class mail privileges, had wrecked the Lewis fortune of several million dollars.

Third Assistant Postmaster-General Britt examined Mr. Cortelyou for the department.

"Mr. Cortelyou," he said, "it has been intimated during these hearings that the Post Office Department was influenced in its action by an alleged express company trust, which objected to the proposed object of the Lewis bank to handle a form of express orders. It is further intimated that Senator Platt was instrumental in having you named Postmaster General and that the department was subservient to the express company trust, presumably headed by Senator Platt. Is that true?"

"I never heard of it," answered Mr. Cortelyou.

"Did Senator Platt or the express trust bring any influence to bear whatever on the Lewis case?"

"Not in any shape whatever," said Mr. Cortelyou.

"Why did you issue a fraud order against the Lewis bank and debar the Lewis publications from the mails?"

"I did it in compliance with my duty as head of the Post Office Department."

Mr. Cortelyou declared that Lewis had been given a fair hearing and that the Lewis case had been handled as similar cases are handled by the Post Office Department.