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A War With No Truce.

Every five or six years the Mississippi goes on the rampage and the elaborate system of levees is in danger. Man builds incessantly and the "Father of Waters" tears his work down in a few hours and scatters his mattresses and other contrivances to contain the flood and keep it moving toward the sea.

For 195 years, dating from the time DE LA TOUR, a French engineer, built a levee a mile long to protect the young city of New Orleans, the fight with the great river has been going on. The problem is complicated by the deepening of the channel for navigation. According to a recent publication the United States Government has spent $70,000,000 upon levee and dredging work from the mouth of the Missouri down. The States interested have also paid out large sums in levee protection. It has been necessary to abandon one estimate of expense after another. In 1881 Government engineers calculated that the deepening of the channel for navigation and completion of the levee system would call for an expenditure of $39,000,000. Almost twice that amount has now been spent, and it is realized that many years must elapse before the work is finished, and regular appropriations for maintenance will still be necessary.

If the Government and the States had addressed themselves solely to the problem of preventing floods the Mississippi on the rampage might not be the terrible force it is to-day. But the development of the resources of the country would have been halted as well as the spread of spring floods. Commerce demanded a waterway for traffic which the railroads could not take care of; the contiguous lands were remarkably fertile and if protected from inundation would yield crops of immense value.

It has been said that the levees constructed on opposite banks of the river are often too close together to curb and contain the rising waters. The explanation is that large areas of land near the banks were under cultivation and had to be protected, and also that the conformation of the ground was such, being lower for some distance back from the bank, that there was really no other place where a levee would be effective. As it is, farms and plantations are still inundated, crops are destroyed and houses swept away.

Granted that the cost of the public works is prodigious and constantly rising, it must be considered that the value of the resources of the valley and the tributary country from Cairo and even above Cairo down to the Passes shows an increase of many more millions of dollars than the cost of making the river navigable and checking its floods in the spring.

The Undergraduates.

What President LOWELL of Harvard says of college democracy is worth repeating because it is true of all American colleges, so far as we know, and because the contrary is ignorantly believed by some folks:

"A democracy is where all kinds of people are gathered, and here at college there are all kinds. Of course there are rich men at Harvard, but there is also much deep poverty."

There are no "rich men's colleges." At Harvard, whose "Gold Coast" is much and sometimes maliciously advertised, we believe that considerably more than one-fourth, and we have heard it put as between one-fourth and one-half, of the students are dependent upon their own exertions or on scholarships or both for their support in whole or in part. The ways of earning or partially earning a living followed by undergraduates are among the most curious of college statistics.

There are snobs in colleges as there is almost every other kind of social type, but the undergraduate, bubbling with independence and the intolerance of youth, jeers and abominates them. Rich men as rich men have to be examined, and if they have the virtues worshipped at colleges, manliness, athletic prowess, good manners, good fellowship, skill in song or at acting or playing the violin or what not, they "pass." There is no necessary relation between poverty and scholarship. Worthy poor lunkheads occur, and we have known rich men to "lead" their class. The rich student to-day who prides himself on his plutocracy, fawns for social advancement or distinguishes himself by excessive expenditure or dissipation will be the loneliest man in college unless he can find a toady or two, who will be despised just a little more than he is.

They are a queer enough set of healthy young savages, the undergraduates, with their customs, prejudices, clothes and slang and ritual, including their magical chorus of "yells"; collectively they are sometimes something of a trial to the public, though individually usually modest and agreeable; morality and even religion flourish among them, many opinions to the contrary notwithstanding; good form in their little republic has a mighty sanction and frowns upon vice; they loathe the pretence of goodness, but are really honorable, if occasionally a little loud; they will be ostracized otherwise: a strange tribe.

Those of us who know what the colleges are can only grin at the worry about the rich at them. In the eighteenth century JOHN ADAMS and his contemporaries used to wash at the pump in the yard, weather permitting. Even for some years after the war the most ordinary conveniences were lacking in the dormitories. Presumably a student can have a bathroom of his own and even hang on his walls a few "first class etchings"—do the "old clo'" men still barter them at an enormous loss?—without becoming altogether too softly Campanian. For our part, we are democratic enough to believe that even the deserving rich should have a chance to get an education.

A Tale From the Card Room.

In those remote days before auction had driven bridge out of the card rooms just as bridge drove out whist, every beginner was introduced soon or late to a curious distribution of the cards in which our old friend Z, the dealer, declared no trumps, was doubled by A, the leader, redoubled, and was again doubled, the trick value being thus raised to ninety-six points. Z, the dealer, at this stage was always anxious to double again, but was restrained by what was called indiscriminately the Portland Club rule or convention, limiting the possible value of a trick to 100 points. When the hand was played the dealer won the odd, and the leader's partner thanked heaven that the Portland Club rule had saved him from more serious losses.

If the tale of the game played on the steamship Olympic, in which a heart declaration was doubled until the trick value was 2,097,152 points, is authentic, the wise restrictive regulation of the great London card club does not run beyond the three mile limit. The cable tells us that the doubling was all by Z, the dealer, and A, who had the lead, and leaves to fancy to paint the feelings of unfortunate Y and B, their partners. Had the settlement been at the trick value reached in doubling the losers would have been out $104,857.60 on the hand. But compromise was resorted to and $500 agreed on as the sum to change hands.

We should like to believe this story, but the strain on our credulity is overmuch. It recalls too quickly that nonarithmetical farmer who contracted for the shoeing of his horse at the rate of one cent for the first nail, two cents for the second, four for the third, and so on, the price of each nail being double that of its predecessor. The tale of the Olympic gamblers takes us back to the inventor of chess, who when his pleased king asked him what reward he would claim for devising so wonderful a game, contented himself with one grain of wheat on the first square of the board, two on the second, and so on up to the sixty-fourth. The king smiled at this modesty, ordered the reward to be paid, and when he found what it meant compromised by having the mathematician's head cut off, a settlement possessing the high virtues of simplicity and economy.

But does anybody play bridge in this enlightened day of royals?

Is New York a City?

Our country cousins love to call New York a big village. Sometimes it seems as if they were more than half right. What must be the feelings of some citizen of the world from Paris or Berlin or Vienna as he walks on Fifth avenue one of these days when April forgets herself and imitates the tantrums of her blustering elder sister?

Baedeker swells in the traveller's bosom. This, then, is the most famous of American streets, save Broadway, in the greatest, the richest of American cities. Hardly has he begun to look about him when his eyes are blinded and his clothes are covered by a shower of ashes. The uncovered ashcarts of the chief American city, the essential capital of the United States, are sprinkling their tribute on him. New Yorkers don't mind it, we suppose. They are used to it. They expect the collector, heaving in his load, and his car of trouble to part with some of it for the public use, the people's tithe, let us say. The surprised or cynical foreigner, accustomed to methods of municipal intelligence, of cleanliness, of civilization, must carry away an unflattering notion of New York.

Not every foreigner of course. A Chinese might feel quite at home. A Moor would only wonder why the infidel dogs don't pile the stuff up instead of gathering and scattering it.

New Innkeeper's Law.

In the view of the law the most spacious and gorgeous New York hotel is an inn, no less than the simple roadside tavern of our forefathers' days. Both are subject to the common law relating to the rights and duties of innkeepers, except where a change has been made by statute.

Two gentlemen from Illinois who had put up for the night at a "palatial" hotel in this town were recently aroused from their beds and turned out by force and arms because they did not have baggage enough with them. They offered to deposit money as security until their goods and chattels should arrive, but this was refused and they were compelled to go.

It is well that this innovation in the custom of innkeepers should be made known to interstate travellers and visitors from foreign parts who may visit New York. They should be sure to bring plenty of trunks and large ones heavily laden.

The baggage test as a standard of affluence has the merit of simplicity; but we should hardly think it would prove satisfactory in all cases, unless the newly arrived guest were compelled to unpack his boxes, bags, valises, &c., in the presence of a hotel clerk, and thus convince the management by submitting his property to inspection that it affords sufficient security for the payment of his prospective bill.

The new system, however, may lead to the ejection of millionaires sometimes. We knew a distinguished New Englander who was a frequent guest at the old Astor House when there was no finer hotel in New York. His baggage never consisted of much more than a toothbrush and a nightshirt wrapped up in a newspaper, yet he was rich enough to buy any hotel in this city in fee simple absolute, with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging.

Wise hotel keepers will refrain from adopting any hard and fast rule on this subject.

Mayor Seidel's Defeat.

Two years have passed since EMIL SEIDEL was elected Mayor of Milwaukee by the Socialists. His success was won in a three cornered struggle in which the Socialist cause was helped considerably by the general dissatisfaction engendered by incompetent and inefficient administration, of which Milwaukee had known full share. Now the Mayor has been defeated for reelection by a fusion of the anti-Socialist parties. Yet his failure to win the second time is by no means a crushing reverse for his party.

About 60,000 votes were divided between the three candidates for Mayor in 1910, and of these SEIDEL received 22,000, or something more than a third. This year 73,000 votes were cast for Mayor SEIDEL and his opponent, and of these 30,000 were for the Socialist. Of the 13,000 more votes cast in 1912 as compared with 1910 the Socialists gained a little less than two-thirds. The increase in the vote for SEIDEL this year over that polled by him at the previous election amounted to considerably more than one-third. The fusion forces got a vote of 5,000 more than the combined votes of the candidates running against SEIDEL in 1910, an increase notably less than that of the Mayor.

It is obvious that had the division of votes been on party lines Mayor SEIDEL would have won again for the Socialists. The victory of the fusion party is not by any means equivalent to the routing of the Socialist party in Milwaukee.

No Doubt About It.

Perhaps it was not necessary for CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS to take any notice of the sneers at his military record which his vigorous articles upon pension system abuses excited in Congress recently, but he has done so in a letter to Senator LODGE. The letter is printed in the *Congressional Record* of April 2. Mr. ADAMS had a good case, and like any other man with a good case he was not answered but abused. It would not have mattered if he had never led a regiment or smelled powder.

As he says in his letter, it is not supposable that members of Congress "take any particular interest" in his military record. Apparently the Hon. CARL CAREY ANDERSON of Ohio, who called him GEORGE FRANCIS ADAMS and asked that a hostile account of the services of General ADAMS be inserted in the *Congressional Record*, came under the head of the indifferent or the ignorant. If the letter to Senator LODGE was published for the enlightenment of the Ohio member, it was wasted ammunition. In fact, it was wasted on all his detractors. No one knew better than they did that Mr. ADAMS was not the issue. His excellent military record should be well known by this time, and it need not be passed in review. One passage makes his letter worth while apart from any consideration of the writer's desire to return an honest for a foul blow. This passage may be commended to the notice of those warriors who are enlisted for the raid upon the Treasury as long as it contains a dollar for pensions:

"If during the civil war the advance on the Confederacy had been as well organized, as skilfully engineered and at once as dashing and as sustained as the pension onslaught on the national Treasury has since been, the conflict would have been shortened by at least one-half, or by two years. Nothing could have stood in its path."

Even the pension raiders will have to admit that Mr. ADAMS is right.

The Universal Alphabet.

None of us can have any objection to a "universal" alphabet recommended by so competent and persuasive an advocate as ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL, provided we don't have to learn it. One is enough. That exception noted, may a "universal" alphabet prosper till it is as "universal" as Volapük or Esperanto set out to be.

With all respect to the erudite, however, a small, convenient alphabet will be general if not "universal" in these United States. A, for automobile; B, for baseball and bicycling; C, for canoeing and croquet; F, for fishing; G, for golf; H, for horseback; M, for motor boating; R, for running and rowing; S, for swimming; T, for tennis; W, for walking.

This fresh air alphabet is all (or most) anybody needs of letters now.

Reluctantly and of necessity we impeach the Hon. SHELBY MOORE CULLOM, a Senator in Congress or holder of other offices from Illinois for years that outrun memory, of high crimes and misdemeanors. In his return to the secretary of the Senate of contributions and expenditures in his campaign for reelection this entry shows its black and accursed face:

"For cigars, $101."

Each of these cigars was a high crime and misdemeanor. The campaign cigar, the candidato imperfecto putrido, the "stump torch," what nostrils has its fuliginous and mephitic breath not struck with horror? What air has it not befouled and darkened? What home has it not made wretched, what specialist in nervous diseases has it not made rich? For $101 at least 101,000,000 "stump torches" can be bought. "A pall of dark smoke" overhangs Illinois. Pale, Cullombia!

What brought the Hon. JOSEPH GURNEY CANNON to his present unhappy profession of Emissary Buck? He distributed campaign cigars, those intolerable funnels of hell, technically known as Cannon crackers. Now Uncle SHELBY travels the same malodorous road to ruin.

HOMER only took the trouble to be born in seven cities; the Ozark Homer who composed the Houn' Dawg song, or Missouri hymn, Champ Clark glee, is shown by infallible testimony to have been born in every State and in Alaska.

HIS GRIEF.

Deserving Legs That Never Can Find Felicitous Trousers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have "kicked" to no purpose to the tailors; now I am going to "kick" to the public.

Why in the name of all the shears cannot I buy for any money a reasonably well fitting pair of trousers? There is little trouble about the coats. They are esteemed harder to cut, I fancy. The conscientious artist "lets himself go." He has a difficult thing to do and he does it well. At least, that is my experience.

But the trousers! What shapeless, formless things the tailors (best or worst, custom made) give me. They are never right. One pair is too long—after "alterations," which never seem to make much difference. One pair is too short. They have rolls and excessiveness and spare flesh above the knee. They have no more shape than a jellyfish below the knee. They are uncomfortable and yet they will not fit anywhere. They wrinkle. They sag. They bag. They belly out. I am ashamed of them.

Is it harder to cut trousers than coats? Am I alone in my sufferings? Not much. "The boys" all tell the same story. They have trouble with their trousers.

Don't tell me "It's my legs." They are straight and reasonable. BRACCAE.

BROOKLYN, April 4.

GERMAN MINERS' PAY.

Figures Showing What the Coal Field Workers Get.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The union of mine owners in Essen, Germany, has published some figures of the wages paid during November last. By shifts 2.6 per cent. of the heavers had about $1, 14 per cent. between $1 and $1.25, 39 per cent. between $1.25 and $1.50, 28 per cent. between $1.50 and $1.60, and 11 per cent. between $1.60 and $1.80.

About 5 per cent. earned a higher shift wage than $1.85 and about 1,000 men had more than $2 a shift. A shift is the regular eight hours work, and considering the class of work we must acknowledge that the miners' lot on the Continent is not a heavenly one. It is impossible to work two consecutive shifts, and the weekly earnings are small.

On the other hand, underground work, particularly for coal mining, is most hazardous, as shown by the numerous catastrophes, which have occurred and which in spite of all modern appliances will occur with more or less frequency. To have matters straightened out to the satisfaction of the operators as well as of the men, it is necessary to adopt a six hour shift.

This will permit the miner to work several times a week on double shifts and increase his earning capacity, but it would be fair to maintain the present eight hour scale for the six hour shift.

One thing, however, is clear: the nation as a whole must resist with all its power any conspiracy hatched by the leaders of the men, because if once these Socialists find out that they can bully the nation until they obtain all they want, then there will be industrial chaos. E. POSSART.

NEW YORK, April 4.

SEX IN POLITICS.

The Suffragists Are Unalterably for Its Elimination.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* On her own statement that she waited several days before answering Mrs. Biorkman's letter Mrs. Scott has not the excuse of having written her letter of April 1 without time for reflection. One can easily believe that the production of such "facts" as those set out in the letter is an unpleasant process.

Mrs. Scott disclaims any imputation that her suggestions are "a principle of the woman suffragists." But she has offered them as an argument against suffrage, and deplores such a condition of "public morals," whatever that may be. If, as she says, the condition does not exist among suffragists, how are they to blame for conditions that may exist among their opponents?

The contemplation of "private mind" is easier, as one can contemplate no "private mind" but her own. But again, the suffragists are not responsible if any of their opponents find such contemplation "disgusting."

Suffrage stands unalterably for the elimination of sex from politics. While no fair minded person could place on the term "sex in politics" such a construction as that suggested in your correspondent's letter, if men are to understand that any women are "contemplating the question" from such a standpoint they should also understand that those women are not in the suffrage ranks.

All womankind, for the development of which suffrage stands, is entitled to a protest against the imputation. S. L.

NEW YORK, April 3.

THE AUTO FIRE ENGINE.

A Lament for the Vanished Fire Horses by Louis J. Warren, Fireman.

From the Englewood Press.

"Yes, things are changed, dog gone the luck!"
Said the driver of Engine One.
"For they're goin' to fires with an auto truck
And the horse is bounced and gone.
It was sugar and oats and shiny coats
That were dappled and smooth and clean;
But now it's a lump in the driver's throat,
And a tankful of gasolene.

"There was a romance in a driver's work
And a something you loved right well;"
It was snap of collar, a cry, a jerk,
Then off in the streets pellmell.
"It was 'Steady, Joe,' and 'Come on, Bill';
It was sparks where the hoofs came down;
And many a time that they turned the trick
Of savin' a slice of the town.

"There was somethin' then in the stalls back there
That was human—or partly near;
Big eyes and a shiny coat of hair,
And a beast that a man held dear
As a lifelong friend—but the auto truck
Is oustin' 'em slick and clean,
For oil and grease and a lot of muck
And a tankful of gasolene.

"Time was when Driver Tom could stand
And pet 'em and rub 'em down,
And feed 'em sugar outen his hand
Without the sign of a frown.
But now it's a crank and a cling and a wheeze,
And a rattle, roar and grind,
With a smell of gas to make you sneeze,
And a blue smoke out behind.

"The march of science along the track—
I guess you might call it so;
But gi' me them old fire horses back,
Then see me hitch 'em and go!
For a horse was a human sort of thing
When he ran with that old machine;
But an auto truck for a fire! By jing—
And a tankful of gasolene!"

Then he rubbed down its nickelled and varnished coat,
And he shined up its great glass eye;
He polished the brass with a lump in his throat
And a sorrowful, long drawn sigh.
He lifted the hood where its metal soul
Lay hidden and all unseen,
Then unscrewed a cap from a yawning hole
And fed it some gasolene.

An Awful Warning.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The season though tardy is still sufficiently advanced for me to say that the millions of thoughtless citizens who will wear yellow shoes with dark pantaloons are committing the old but nevertheless unpardonable sin against the harmonies and the proprieties. J. REYNOLDS TAYLOR.

NEW YORK, April 4.

Abundance of Broadway Beef.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Everything indicates that the Maine waters will have the largest, finest and fattest crop of lobsters known for some years. Let the good red word circulate along the good old White Way. I have spoken. A TEMPORARY EXILE.

PORTLAND, Me., April 5.

MEN AND RELIGION.

The Churches Increase in Numbers and Activity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In THE SUN of April 3 John M. Pryse takes eight inches of your space to make ten statements that are about as wide of the mark and contrary to fact as people with schemes of their own and anxious to show public need for such schemes usually make. Let me as briefly as possible give Mr. Pryse in quotations from his letter to you and the fact immediately after:

"The recent religious census shows percentages of population increase to run far ahead of increase in church membership."

The proportion of population included within the churches was larger by 6.4 per cent. in 1906 than in 1890. This is the latest Government religious census taken and these the Government figures.

"The Men and Religion Movement bears no definite message."

Mr. Frederick B. Smith, its campaign leader, stated at the Broadway Tabernacle on March 14 to 1,000 picked men of the churches of New York a message so definite, so clear and so ringing that the men forgot themselves and in a church actually cheered for a full minute.

"The old doctrine as to salvation has been generally abandoned."

So it has. Formerly the doctrine was that each man should seek to save himself. That has been abandoned to the extent that many men seek to save others also, and not only do unto their neighbor as they would have their neighbor do to them, but do better to their neighbor than they ask for themselves. America leads the world in gifts to foreign missions after spending more on home missions and Christian education than any other people in the world. The figures are before me to prove these assertions.

"Belief in Jesus as the world's Saviour is not essential to salvation."

Eighteen million Protestants and 15,000,000 Catholic Christians in America are united, more strongly united indeed than heretofore, on the doctrine that such belief is essential.

"Old creeds have been abandoned or nearly so."

Statistics show that the Christian bodies in America, Protestant and Catholic, that are reciting the old creeds are steadily increasing in their numbers, and that the few, the very few, that deny the creeds are losing ground and doing little or no uplift work.

There being no creed, "the Men and Religion Movement has no Christian message."

The Men and Religion Movement has proclaimed for a year and is doing so at this moment in New York as loudly as it can that "he serves mankind best who serves Jesus Christ best." Institutes to teach men how best to serve, largest results for given outlay, will be held April 15, 16, 17 and 18.

"Sermons now consist principally of moral philosophy."

Allow just here a personal point. My business compels me to hear from 300 to 500 sermons and religious addresses a year, often ten a week. It has required me to do so for years. I have never heard sermons containing more about Christ, more dogma, more many sided religion, all of it gospel, than during the past year.

"Higher criticism is painstaking."

A foremost higher critic of England in America last fall was asked by me how higher criticism makes out now. He replied by saying: "The higher critics and their criticism are dead." He exaggerated, but there was enough truth in it to make this critic authorize the statement, and that statement was printed in THE SUN.

"Ten million to 15,000,000 have joined Christian Science, New Thought, &c."

In their most ambitious figuring all of these new cults together are willing to drop at least four of these ciphers.

"Hence the empty pews in churches which the Men and Religion Movement hopes to fill."

More people regularly attend New York churches than ever before, and during Lent, 1912, attendance at noonday services on weekdays, at special services day and evening on week days and on Sundays was larger than in any Lent New York ever went through. The figures are in hand. This is not wild assertion.

The Men and Religion Movement does not base its motive on the alleged failure of the churches. It is a forward movement. It rejoices in all that has been accomplished and seeks to help the churches to accomplish more.

John M. Pryse states in his closing paragraph that he himself has a religious plan. According to him other religious plans have failed. To what extent is his vision of Christian conditions at the moment affected by his ambition for his own scheme?

EUGENE M. CAMP.

NEW YORK, April 4.

The Improvement of Morals.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Without disparagement of the Protestant body Mr. Pryse might have added that despite the diminished membership or attendance the morals of our city are better to-day than thirty or forty years ago when the pulpit seemed to hold sway over the fears or faith of many who believed collective worship to be religion. At that time and for centuries before it exhorted its hearers to scramble for salvation by acceptance of man made edicts, and made no movement toward remedying the existing evils of each generation. Many of us recall the gloom of the sanctuary and its teachings; its solemn admonition against the theatre, dancing, card playing and secular reading, letter writing, visiting on the Sabbath and other innocent diversions.

In those dreary times the churches were thronged largely through habit derived from our forefathers, the enormous families being led into the pews, the doors latched, and either in fear or perfunctory course gave assent without reasoning to doctrines hammered out of the pulpit cushions, which somewhat unpleasantly threatened one's peace in the life to come.

The man of 40 without church affiliation or who was reluctant to accept some of the narrated Biblical miracles was regarded as an infidel and an outcast irrespective of his good life and works. But we progress. Whether scepticism is a result of knowledge or knowledge a result of scepticism remains to be determined. To-day without the same professed belief we are better. We are well policed by an enterprising, investigative and denouncing press, insistent on corrective measures against evils in civil government, in bodies or acts of individuals, and it lends valuable aid in all organized effort for the betterment of social conditions, of which in the past the church took no cognizance. UNCHURCHED.

NEW YORK, April 4.

A Catholic's Request.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* John M. Pryse says in to-day's SUN: "The higher criticism is painstaking, scholarly, merciless. Theologians have been powerless to meet these assaults. The result of the higher criticism is that for unprejudiced scholars the old theology is demolished."

This is of great interest, indeed of surpassing importance to me, who am a Catholic. Can Mr. Pryse refer me to at least once instance of a dogmatic truth taught by the Catholic Church destroyed by an irrefragable conclusion of the higher criticism? I cannot afford to remain in any position that contradicts my reason, for if I have to give up either my reason or my church it cannot be my reason. Thus far I have found no conflict between them. But perhaps I am in error and therefore I seek for light. I beg a specific answer.

ANDREW PROUT.

NEW YORK, April 3.

Neighbors.

Mrs. Knicker—Are they desirable neighbors?

Mrs. Bocker—No, I haven't seen them move in anything I can borrow.

THE SUPPRESSION OF "BOSH."

Referendum and Will of the People Overruled in New Jersey.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is the referendum bosh? Has Governor Wilson gone back to the faith of Professor Wilson? Eight years ago we had here in New Jersey a referendum. The proposition was for a reform of our judicial procedure. The people at that time by a clear majority decided against the proposition. Five years later we had a second referendum. A similar proposition emanating from the State Bar Association for the reform of our judicial procedure was again referred to the people. This proposal, like the former, was defeated by a large and enthusiastic majority.

Yet again the State Bar Association proposed to reform the judicial procedure, this time by a simple legislative enactment intended to accomplish the same end as was expected to be accomplished by the constitutional amendments of 1904 and 1909. Now listen to the Newark *Evening News*, the warm advocate of Governor Wilson and of the referendum:

Out of four bills indorsed by the State Bar Association to simplify judicial proceedings three have been passed and signed by the Governor. * * * The third (bill signed by the Governor) * * * is virtually identical with one of the provisions of the proposed judiciary amendment to the Constitution which was rejected by the people in 1909 for other than inherent reasons by an adverse majority of 23,750.

What heresy! The people were wrong in 1904, and in 1909 rejected the proposition for other than inherent reasons. Impossible! But Wilson has made it all right. Wilson has signed the bill that reverses the mistaken judgment of the people. The referendum and Wilson together do all things well. But think of what will happen if we have the referendum without Wilson.

The people of a great State, advised by a wise and farseeing State Bar Association, decide a great constitutional question of the utmost importance, after learned and persuasive arguments, wrongly, for other than inherent reasons.

It is to be sincerely hoped that Governor Wilson will be spared to us for the remainder of his term to protect the State of New Jersey from the mistakes of the people when they set out to wield the referendum. New Jersey cannot at this time spare the great suppressor of bosh. R. B.

JERSEY CITY, April 4.

STREET PAVINGS.

A Problem Declared to Be Simple and Easy of Solution.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There is nothing simpler to one who knows than the laying and maintaining of city streets and country roads to meet modern traffic conditions. The matter is not an engineering problem, in spite of the fact that this town has expended a million or so each year for engineering assistance and has maintained several laboratories for the study of asphalt and bituminous materials which are in full blast to-day, having been established many years ago. Still matters continue to go from bad to worse.

Bituminous cementing material properly employed is a complete answer to your argument. Correct knowledge on this subject is not to be obtained in engineering schools, nor from text books, but is the result of the practical experience of a comparatively few men.

In this city each day $1,200 to $1,500 worth of old asphalt is taken up in the course of repairs, hauled to the dumps, towed to sea and deposited with other refuse. This old material by a simple and inexpensive process may be completely rejuvenated and can be relaid equal to and indistinguishable from new mixtures at a net saving of 50 per cent. on present cost.

This matter, which is capable of demonstration to any intelligent person, has been urged for years on the officials here without result. With regard to foundations the old original stone block paving upon which much of the asphalt rests can be grouted "in place" at a small cost by a well known process. Both schemes have been successfully demonstrated on a practical scale elsewhere.

Bituminous macadam properly mixed and laid is a complete answer to the requirements for windless, dustless park and suburban roads and country highways, although millions are being expended in fruitless experiments along new lines ignoring the cardinal principles, which experience has proved correct.

One honest, efficient and progressive official could revolutionize this subject almost instantly. If you will produce such a man "paving the town" will be easy.

NEW YORK, April 4. OLD SUBSCRIBER.

The Care of Cheese.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* May I commend the following to the Great Custodian of the commonweal:

Do not set a cat to take care of a cheese, lest it should be gnawed by the mice. One bite of the cat does more harm to the cheese than twenty mice can do. E. S.

PALMETTO BLUFF, S. C., April 2.

Socialism and Woman Suffrage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Otis Williamson suggests that it is the socialist's intention to equalize economic opportunity. That is "a consummation devoutly to be wished," but we women do not conceive it to be possible. We know that woman cannot be stimulated to man's productive capacity without injury to herself and we have no desire to see man limited to her capacity in order to attain equality. Nor are we disposed to surrender our legal privileges on the vague promises of the socialists that the millennium is at hand. What socialism aims at we all know. What socialism has accomplished in practice is seen in the expression of opinion in the Milwaukee elections. It was said the women defeated the socialist candidate for Mayor in Los Angeles. Milwaukee has proved, however, that the same result is obtainable without appeal to the women.

JULIA T. WATERMAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 4.

The Five Horned Rabbits of Kansas.

From the Kansas City Journal.

Charlie Browne of Horton, who has always been sceptical as to horned rabbits, has been shown at last. And incidentally it remained for him to discover how there happen to be horned rabbits in Kansas. Marion T. Jones of Baker brought the head of a horned rabbit to Browne's office the other day. He had seen statements in the paper that there was no such thing, and brought the head along so that he could show the editor that editors don't know everything. He shot the rabbit on an island in the Missouri River, up near Rulo, Neb. The head had five little horns, prongs or growths of some sort on it—two on the top, two at the side and one under the jaw. Otherwise it looked like any other rabbit. Jones accounts for this kind of rabbits by telling that years ago a wagon circus broke down up north of Falls City and that a bunch of horned rabbits brought over from Germany escaped. These have mingled with the native rabbits until the horned rabbit of to-day is the result.

Immortals on Circuit.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Professor Stringfellow with his assistant, Mr. Kidder, accompanied by I. Winkler, Esq., have arrived in town and given as their home address Hall of Fame, NEW YORK SUN. Is this all right?

OVID PRETTYMAN.

WILLOW GROVE, Ind., April 1.

The Return of the Market Basket.

The old oaken bucket no longer may greet us
For science has robbed it of half of its charm,
But once more economy brings forth to meet us
The old market basket that hung on the arm.

How sweet to behold it with grub overflowing
Though far from the place that its owner may dwell,
And oh, how ecstatic it is to be knowing
Its fatness will fatten our purses as well.

But here is a question with import deep laden
For it is a phase we must view with alarm,
Will men on the cars give up seats to the maiden
Whose big market basket is hung on her arm?

McLANDBURGH WILSON.

PRESIDENT'S SECOND MESSAGE ON ECONOMY

Would Place All Department Employees Under the Classified Service.

TO BE SELECTED ON MERIT

Other Recommendations of Legislation by Which He Hopes to Save More Than $11,000,000.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—In his second message to Congress this year on economy and efficiency in the Government service President Taft recommended today the passage of legislation by which he hopes more than $11,000,000 will be saved every year.

His most important recommendations in this second message are to have all the local officers under the Departments of the Treasury, the Post Office, of Justice, of the Interior and of Commerce and Labor placed in the classified service.

"In my message submitted to the Congress on January 17 I referred to the loss occasioned to the Government because of the fact that in many cases two persons are paid for doing work that cloud easily be done by one. In the meantime I have caused an inquiry to be made as to the amount in money of this loss. The results of this inquiry are that the loss amounts to at least $10,000,000 annually. For example, it appears that a very substantial economy would result from putting experienced and trained officers in charge of the first and second class post offices instead of selecting the postmasters in accordance with the present practice. As the annual operating expenses of the first and second class offices aggregate the enormous sum of more than $80,000,000, undoubtedly if the postmasters of these offices were embraced in the classified service and required to devote all their time to the public service the annual savings would eventually represent many millions of dollars."

The President says that the same thing holds true of the pension agents, in the General Land Office and the internal revenue and customs services, in the last of which class, he says, large expenditures are made for salaries of political appointees. He recommends that officers be selected on a merit basis.

The next important recommendation the President makes is the consolidation of the lighthouse and life saving services. He says that the life saving service should be taken from the Department of the Treasury and be made one of the duties of the bureau of lighthouses of the Department of Commerce and Labor. Together with this he would have the revenue cutter service, which is at present organized as a naval establishment, also consolidated with the lighthouse department.

In speaking of the lighthouse and life saving services he says:

Both of these services are organized and maintained for the same general purpose—the protection of life and property endangered along the coasts and other navigable waters. Both maintain stations along the coast, which are located for the most part in close proximity. Both have substantially the same business problems to meet in locating, constructing and maintaining these stations, in recruiting the personnel, in manufacturing or purchasing equipment, in purchasing, housing in depots and distributing supplies, in operating a field inspection service, in maintaining telephonic and other means of communication, in disbursing funds, in keeping proper books of accounts and in rendering reports showing financial and other transactions. The maintenance of two separate services, as at present, means a duplication of organization in respect to all of these operations.

By this consolidation he hopes that $100,000 at least might be saved annually, and that the saving will be much greater after the first year.

In speaking of the recommended consolidation of the revenue cutter service with the lighthouse service he says:

At the present time the Revenue Cutter service is organized as a naval establishment. The country is in effect maintaining two navies and is using one of these navies for the performance of duties of a civil character. The maintenance of two separate naval establishments entails unnecessary expense and is not in the interest of either efficiency or economy. In so far as the duties of the revenue cutter service are of a naval character, are such as can be readily performed by the regular naval establishment, they should be performed by such establishment; in so far as they are of a purely civil character, use should be made of services organized and conducted upon a civil basis.

He recommends that the vessels and equipment of the revenue cutter service be transferred to the Department of Commerce and Labor. Then the Secretary of Commerce and Labor shall be allowed to choose such of the vessels and equipment as he sees fit for the lighthouse service, the bureau of fisheries and other services under his jurisdiction requiring vessels, and that the rest of the vessels that are not needed by his Department be turned over to the naval establishment.

Other recommendations he makes are to consolidate the auditing offices of the Government under one auditor; all allowance of mileage for officers and employees of the Government be discontinued and that a scale of per diem allowances take the place of the "subsistence," which included lodging; improvement in the method of handling correspondence by which the labor might be reduced 50 per cent.; centralizing the distribution of Government documents and the discontinuance of the publication of the official register.

LAWYERS DOMINATE CONGRESS.

John Hays Hammond Says the Crying Need Is More Practical Business Men.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—John Hays Hammond, president of the National League of Republican Clubs, expressed the opinion to-day that one of the crying needs of the American Government just now is the presence in the national Congress of a greater number of practical business men. He pointed out that at present about 70 per cent. of the members of Congress are lawyers.

"Congress has to deal with great business problems and the procedure there is the exact reverse of what it is in business," said Mr. Hammond. "In business the business man formulates his plan of organization and calls in a lawyer to draw it up according to legal requirements. In Congress the lawyers draw up laws to regulate business and then call in the business men to ask them how they like the programme."

Mr. Hammond expressed the opinion that in every Congress district there are a number of successful business men who could be trusted to discharge their duties as legislators with absolute honesty in the interest of the country.

"Among the objections offered by business men as to why they do not go into political life is the fact that their success in business, however honestly obtained, is usually regarded with suspicion by the public," said Mr. Hammond. "I believe that the time is coming when the public will be able to discriminate between men who have made money in business through honest effort and for the benefit of the community and those who have done so through dishonorable methods."