The Sun

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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 demagogue, in all his forms, is as characteristic an evil of a free society as the courtier is of a despotism.—THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

A New Birth of Freedom.

At the expense of the ministering angels of social justice and trusts in trouble Mr. ROOSEVELT is lauded magnificently in the advertising columns of the Massachusetts newspapers. "Let us go to the polls on April 30," cries the Massachusetts Roosevelt Committee piously, "and vote for THEODORE ROOSEVELT and the Roosevelt delegates and help to bring about once again in this nation a new birth of freedom."

What kind of freedom does THEODORE ROOSEVELT stand for? Freedom from his solemn pledges; freedom from truth and honor; freedom from the Constitution, the laws, the courts; freedom to do or fail to do as President exactly what suits him, his vanity and his interest? The freedom which Massachusetts has known, loved and enjoyed, is a restrained and orderly freedom, assured and protected by steady justice, not dependent upon tumultuary caprices, the passion of irresponsible and shifting majorities or any man's will.

The new birth of freedom under ROOSEVELT!

We guess he's waked up the wrong passenger in the State of the ADAMSES and THEOPHILUS PARSONS and JOSEPH STORY and LEMUEL SHAW and GEORGE FRISBIE HOAR.

Senator Crane.

In a speech at a Taft rally in Boston on Monday Representative GEORGE P. LAWRENCE said that "one of the most astonishing things about this vicious campaign is Colonel ROOSEVELT'S abuse of Senator CRANE."

It seems that, according to Mr. LAWRENCE, the Colonel is estopped by his own acts and statements from aspersing the junior Massachusetts Senator. On three occasions Mr. ROOSEVELT while President urged WINTHROP MURRAY CRANE to become a member of his Cabinet; and in writing within three months he has testified to his warm regard for the Senator and expressed the utmost confidence in him.

Why then the revulsion of sentiment, the change from eulogy to bitter disparagement? For no other reason than the Senator's support of President TAFT in the crisis precipitated by the Colonel's treachery and his designs on the high office for which he pledged himself not to be a candidate again.

"I will confess," says Representative LAWRENCE, "that my vocabulary is not sufficiently extensive to find words strong enough to express my opinion of that sort of thing." There is only one man in public life who could supply the language to fit the offence, and that is the Colonel himself; and if the cases were reversed he would blister the ears of the American people with his characterization of it.

The Fighting in Morocco.

The outbreak of the Moroccan natives at Fez with the accompanying massacre of Europeans at that capital is certain to have immediate consequences for the French troops in the Shereefian Empire. Already despatches report that the garrison is to be raised from 30,000 to 40,000 and prompt punitive operations are to be undertaken. But a wider and far more considerable activity is equally foreshadowed.

Thus it is practically certain that within a few weeks the road from Algeria to Fez will be opened. This road, anciently the route of Roman and Arab conquest and the route by which the Mohammedan invasion entered Spain, is now closed and has remained closed ever since France and Spain began to dispute over their respective shares in Morocco. But from the present outposts of French troops on the Algerian frontier to Fez is but a hundred miles, and once this road is open the whole garrison of Algeria, upward of 50,000 troops, can be sent in emergency to Fez.

Such a step will entail a new pressure upon the Franco-Spanish negotiators. For months they have debated interminably, and in consequence the construction of the Tangier-Fez railroad, which would insure quick communication between the coast and the capital, has been postponed, and since France has promised in her treaty with Germany that this shall be the first railroad to be built all other railroad building has been prevented also. But with the present situation in mind, and with the French public naturally and generally aroused by the bloodshed at Fez, drastic French action so far as Spain is concerned is inevitable.

A summer campaign in the Atlas, with punitive expeditions directed against the various Berber clans lying south of the Sebu Valley, seems equally inevitable. This will entail much severe fighting and considerable expense. In addition reports from Morocco city, the southern capital, which is not yet garrisoned by the French, indicate that unless the city is promptly occupied serious fighting here and a long campaign may be necessary. France has now to prevent the various scattered risings from becoming a united and general insurrection, which might even produce another ABD-EL-KADER and a repetition of the Algerian history of the last century.

For Germany the present French predicament in Africa will doubtless be entirely pleasing, since it is quite possible that several French army corps will have to be sent to Morocco and the European forces correspondingly weakened. The diminution of the military strength of the Triple Alliance incident to Italian operations in Tripoli will thus be in a measure balanced by France's necessities in Morocco.

An admirable opportunity to employ the black troops of French West Africa, the "force noire" of recent discussion, is now presented. But France has not yet a sufficiently large force of Senegal native troops to deal with the situation, and the disorders in Tunis resulting from the Italian operations in adjoining Tripolitan territory will make another considerable draft upon French military resources.

It is easy to see in this situation a chance for another move by German diplomacy which might restore prestige lost at Agadir. At all events the Moroccan problem, in a new form, must again command the attention of all the European nations.

Mr. Bryan Vindicated Again.

For a time in this session of Congress the Democratic party, so singularly gifted in the Peerless Leader, seemed unworthy of him, ungrateful for the long series of triumphs achieved under his wise and unselfish paramountcy. Vainly did the Hon. ROBERT LEE HENRY of Waco, one of his most vocipotent proxies, plead for a many headed investigation of the multitudinous iniquities of the "money trust." The Bryan-Henry resolution (No. 405) was squelched in the House Democratic caucus. The Peerless was insolently defied on the floor. The "producing classes" shivered; the Money Kings chortled in their capitals.

Yet all was not lost. On February 25 the House passed by a vote of 207 to 8 the Pujo resolution ordering the Committee on Banking and Currency to make "a full investigation" of "the banking and currency conditions of the United States * * * including all matters touched upon in House resolution No. 405, within the jurisdiction of said committee." This limitation pained the Insurgents; the Republicans pretended that it would prevent that ample investigation for which they pined. But at least Mr. BRYAN and his friends had won something. Radical and conservative had lain down together. Who knew what thunders leashed as yet slept in the bosom of PUJO and No. 405?

They slept for weeks; they seemed to snore carelessly. The friends of virtue were stirred to wrath. The Committee on Banking and Currency was regarded as a set of aristocrats, at least of Girondists. Meanwhile the campaign and the compact deepened. Now Mr. PUJO'S committee brings forth a resolution asking for more authority and a wider whack at the Octopus.

We congratulate Mr. BRYAN on this sympathetic deference to his wishes. We congratulate the Democracy on its faithfulness to a chief so fortunate. As for the Money Trust, not even its feelings, if such a monster is capable of feeling, should be hurt. It is a special privilege of "special privilege" to furnish campaign material as well as campaign funds.

Alien Crews on British Ships.

"What a hollow mockery 'Rule Britannia' is!" exclaims Mr. SPENCER CAMPBELL in an article in the April *Fortnightly Review* dealing with the "Peril Afloat." His topic is not the British navy but the mercantile marine, and his text is from FROUDE: "Take away the merchant fleet, take away the navy that guards it, and the empire will come to an end."

Mr. CAMPBELL asserts that the crews of British merchant ships, with the exception of the Atlantic liners, consist chiefly of aliens to-day, and he says with fierce scorn: "In the event of a general European war how can the salvation of the empire be entrusted to Dutchmen, Scandinavians, Dagoes and the sweepings of Cappadocia and Asia Minor?" What the deuce does he mean by lugging in Cappadocia? It is not on modern maps. One has to go back to STRABO to learn anything of Cappadocia, and it is vague at the most. At any rate the people who live in the country in eastern Asia Minor once called by that name are not a seafaring people. By Dutchmen Mr. CAMPBELL means Germans, and "Dagoes" stands for Italians. There is something, of course, in his complaint that a great many aliens are shipped under the British flag, and it is a condition that thoughtful Englishmen do not regard with complacency. When the steamship Cheltenham was held up by a Russian man-of-war in the conflict with Japan there were only four British sailors on the Cheltenham, and it is said that when the Russians rowed away after their search of the ship her "crew," all Germans but four, cheered the outrage to Britannia. An even more flagrant case of filling the complement with aliens was that of the steamship Coomassie, bound for Catania, which completed her crew at Hamburg on March 10 of this year. It was a cosmopolitan lot with only four Britishers in it, and these left the ship at Catania. "Yet," mourns Mr. CAMPBELL, "she is sailing under the British flag claiming the protection of our consulates." Twelve nationalities in the "foc's'le" was reported from one British steamship. In the Eastern seas lascars are very much in demand, because "with a lascar crew things go so smoothly." Besides, the East Indians are cheap and docile.

It may be supposed that British steamship owners who cut freight charges to obtain business in the fiercest competition the world knows are not inclined to listen to solicitations that they ship Englishmen to save the empire. Tramps are laid up in every port for want of cargoes, and the end is often a forced sale, the purchasers being Germans or Norwegians, who soon give the officers their walking papers. Beyond doubt the British merchant marine would see evil days in the event of a war with a great sea Power. Officers of the Naval Reserve would be taken out of the ships, and those left would have to deal with crews largely composed of aliens sullen and hostile. In emergencies they would work only under compulsion, and the enemy would have no difficulty in getting information from them. England, dependent upon an imported food supply, would have to keep these ships at sea, and if they failed her the sequel would be a costly peace.

"Something is wanted in England," says Mr. CAMPBELL, "of the spirit which animated the Kaiser's proud vaunt about his yacht, the Meteor, 'German built, German fitted, German manned.'" The trouble, however, is an economic one. Germany herself is not entirely free from it. On the first class liners the crews are British, or largely so, but only because the companies receive subsidies from the Government and certain conditions of employment are imposed. Australia and New Zealand insist upon the exclusion of Chinese and lascars from the crews of mail steamships. But subsidies are not granted to every company, and the freight carriers must earn their way or haul down the flag. Further than requiring that the officers in the merchant marine shall be British, Parliament can do little to relieve the situation.

Farewell to the Free Lunch.

News comes from Pittsburg that the License Court has issued a rule forbidding the serving of any kind of free lunch by those who may lawfully dispense alcoholic beverages. This is a distinct blow to many a hardy stomach in these days of high cost living. It also affords evidence that Kansas can influence Pittsburg not only in things political but also in things moral and intestinal.

Special stress was laid against crackers and cheese. This embargo seems contrary to public health, particularly the taboo against cheese and crackers, as they were the most harmless part of the regulation free lunch. It is well known that the high cost of living had an immediate effect upon the quality of most free lunch offerings throughout the land. Keen observers of the counters have reported that even the variety of sausage has been cut in half, and that the sauerkraut is not nearly so deadly as formerly, having lost half its former strength through dilution. Reports come from many parts of Ohio that the hamburger steaks are not steaks at all but a crude mixture of bran and other foreign substances. Bran, however, is said by some authorities to be very wholesome, providing one can eat it and live.

It would be interesting to know what process of thought produced this extraordinary action in proscribing in Pennsylvania such a national institution as the free lunch. Did the License Court forbid it on grounds of virtue, holding that the eating of a pretzel or salted crackers induced one, through artificial thirst, to take more than is good for locomotion, let alone health? Or had the august members of the court found by experience that the quality of the lunch itself had fallen below the standards of public welfare?

WILLIAM PENN and BENJAMIN FRANKLIN would have favored the preservation of the free lunch.

A Chicago lawyer and intimate friend of Mr. BRYAN says "there is no question that Mr. BRYAN will accept the nomination if the Democrats of the country want him to." But they don't.

Had the freight steamer Lena been equipped with a wireless outfit she could have reached the scene of the wreck of the steamer Titanic in time to save many lives. The Lena, which arrived here from Fowey, England, to-day, was within thirty miles of the Titanic when the latter foundered.—*Despatch from Portland, Me.*

Why shouldn't the freight steamship Lena, and every freighter that sails the seas, be required to carry a wireless outfit? The lives of their crews are supposed to be worth saving. The extra expense could be added to the value of the freight carried.

Either a reactionary will be nominated or I will be nominated.—*The Colonel to the voters of Oregon before the primary election.*

The above ultimatum was printed in many newspapers and paid for at advertising rates by the Colonel's backers. They are investing heavily on his chances in Massachusetts, where the same announcement will be made. The Colonel knows that Mr. TAFT is not a reactionary, and the ultimatum might as well be reduced to the bald notice: "I will be nominated."

A vindication of the British sense of humor and incidentally a demonstration of the value of the mechanical toy in contemporary politics is furnished by the cartoonist of the *Westminster Gazette*, a Liberal organ. He has designed an admirable effigy of Mr. BONAR LAW, the Tory leader in the House of Commons, seated upon a box which contains a spring and displays a key common to all such toys. Its operation is simply and comprehensively described by the accompanying legend: "When the figure is wound up, every time it opens its mouth it puts its foot in it."

Blasphemy From the Bay State.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Governor Wilson may be a very promising candidate for the Presidency; but what sort of a Governor is he making for New Jersey "gallivanting" all over the country? I should think the State that mothers the trusts would have enough work for any Chief Executive to attend to. With all the Governors in the ring I guess it is a case of the circus swallowing up the side shows. The people of the mosquito State must have forgotten how their professor looks, they see him so seldom. It is a pity that a State office has to be slighted and used as a medium by which to seek to gain a more exalted position. J. R. LEWIS.

HOLYOKE, Mass., April 23.

THE MAN WITH THE LOOSE TONGUE.

Some of Mr. Roosevelt's Most Positive Assertions Examined.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It seems to me that in recent criticisms of decisions by our New York Court of Appeals Mr. Roosevelt has indulged in statements which, if he has been correctly reported, are inexcusably inaccurate.

1. Referring to the Matter of Jacobs (98 N. Y., 98), wherein the Court of Appeals held unconstitutional Chapter 272 of the Laws of 1884, which forbade the manufacture of tobacco on any part of a floor used for living purposes in any tenement house in a city having over 500,000 inhabitants, Mr. Roosevelt is reported to have said:

> The decision of the court in this case retarded by at least twenty years the work of tenement reform and was directly responsible for causing hundreds of thousands of American citizens now alive to be brought up under conditions of reeking filth and squalor, which measurably decreased their chance of turning out to be good citizens.

That that decision was responsible for any such consequences as Mr. Roosevelt asserts is absurd. What it held was, in brief, that people have a right to work in their homes and that the Legislature may not interfere with the exercise of that right except so far as may be reasonably necessary for the public health, safety, &c., and that the act in question, purporting to be for the public health, was not a reasonable regulation for that purpose, because it arbitrarily selected one article and forbade its manufacture under certain conditions, not generally unsanitary, whether unsanitary or not. As a matter of fact the act was not designed to protect health but to put out of business one set of competitors in a trade war; but of that fact the court neither had nor took notice.

That this decision did not retard the work of tenement reform "by at least twenty years" and that it did not prevent the Legislature from forbidding the manufacture of tobacco or anything else in tenement homes "under conditions of reeking filth and squalor," is manifest from the fact that seven years later the Legislature, by Chapter 673 of the Laws of 1892, empowered the Factory Inspector to regulate the manufacture of many things, tobacco included, in tenement houses throughout the State and to prevent such manufacture wherever unsanitary. And this later act, strengthened and enlarged by subsequent amendments, is still the law (Labor Law, Section 100), and is of unquestioned constitutionality.

So far, then, from having done harm in the way of sanitary reform the decision in the Jacobs case has done good by giving the reform a proper direction and object. Mr. Roosevelt's criticism receives a ready chorus of approval from a large body of ill informed reformers who seek to prevent some of the evils of "sweating" by arbitrarily forbidding all home manufacture in tenements. But the vast majority of tenement houses in New York are of the class better described as apartment houses, which are perfectly sanitary, and in such houses there is much home work of a good kind, such as fine sewing, art work, &c., and under good conditions; and it would be a deplorable and unnecessary interference with liberty to forbid such work as an incident to the prevention of home work in unsanitary slums.

2. Mr. Roosevelt is reported as saying also:

> When the Legislature of New York passed a law limiting the hours of labor of women in factories to ten hours a day for six days a week and forbade their being employed after 9 in the evening and before 6 in the morning the New York Court of Appeals declared it unconstitutional.

The Court of Appeals did not do that. It did not hold the provision forbidding the employment of women more than ten hours a day or six days a week to be unconstitutional. On the contrary that provision has been uniformly sustained and enforced by the courts. And it is also the law of New York to-day, and of unquestioned constitutionality, that female minors under twenty-one years of age may not be employed in a factory before 6 A. M. nor after 9 P. M. (Labor Law, Section 77).

What the court did hold to be unconstitutional was so much of the statute as forbids the employment of adult women in factories after 9 P. M. or before 6 A. M. (People vs. Williams, 189 N. Y. 131). The effect of a contrary decision would have been to deprive adult women of the right to employment in many well paid occupations, with short hours of labor, but wherein it is occasionally necessary to work until 10, 11 or 12 o'clock in the night. And the arbitrariness of such a prohibition is shown by the fact that such women are allowed by law to work at all hours of the night in other occupations and under worse conditions, provided that the work is not in a factory. This particular form of prohibition of night work was copied from foreign laws, wherein it was designed to stop the employment of night shifts of women in mills, &c. No such condition existed or exists in New York. If the practice of employing night shifts of women in factories should arise in New York the decision in the Williams case does not stand in the way of appropriate legislation to prohibit it.

3. Mr. Roosevelt is reported as saying also that the New York Legislature passed a law to prevent the employment of men in filthy cellar bakeries for longer than ten hours a day, but that the courts have held it unconstitutional. In this instance it is really the United States Supreme Court that is in contempt of the Colonel. The facts are that the Legislature passed an act (Labor Law, Section 110; Laws 1897, Chapter 415), forbidding employment in any bakery or confectionery—whether filthy or the contrary—for more than ten hours a day; that the New York Court of Appeals (People vs. Lochner, 177 N. Y. 145) sustained its constitutionality, but that the United States Supreme Court (Lochner vs. New York, 198 U. S. 45) held that in the absence of any evidence that baking per se is a particularly unhealthy occupation the imposition of a special restriction upon the hours of work in that occupation constituted an unnecessary, arbitrary and unreasonable interference with freedom to labor or to contract for services.

Mr. Roosevelt has scoffed at this doctrine on the ground that the freedom to labor sought to be protected by the court is really "freedom to be compelled to work long," and not freedom to work long voluntarily. But in fact the restriction would interfere with liberty to work no matter how freely; and unless the power of the Legislature to interfere with such liberty is restricted to the enactment of regulations reasonably necessary for the public health, safety, &c., there is no limit on its power, and it may arbitrarily or in the interests of special classes regulate our lives and conduct in any respects. That is exactly what the Bill of Rights in our Constitution was meant to prevent. There is nothing in this decision to prevent the Legislature from regulating or prohibiting labor in vile cellar or other unsanitary bakeries. On the contrary, there has long been in force a statute of unquestioned constitutionality (Labor Law, Section 114) which authorizes the Commissioner of Labor by summary process to close up any bakery that is unsanitary.

4. Mr. Roosevelt is reported as saying also:

> The courts hold unconstitutional the law under which a girl was endeavoring to recover damages for the loss of her arm because dangerous machinery was unguarded.

This assertion is a vague appeal to prejudice, and its particular reference is uncertain. It conveys the impression that some courts, in some cases, have held a statute to be unconstitutional because it made an employer liable for damages for failure to guard his machinery. There is certainly no decision of the kind by the higher courts of New York, and probably none by any American court. On the contrary, our courts generally have interpreted the law in this respect so far in favor of injured workmen that an employer who has done his level best in safeguarding his machinery may nevertheless be held liable in punitive damages if a sympathetic jury, against the preponderance of evidence and contrary to the prevailing opinion of experts, decides that he might have guarded it better.

5. Mr. Roosevelt is reported as saying also:

> The workmen's compensation act but a year or two ago was declared unconstitutional by the courts of New York, though a directly reverse decision in precisely similar language has been rendered not only by the State courts of Iowa and Washington but by the Supreme Court of the United States.

I am among those who believe that the decision, and more particularly the opinions, of the New York Court of Appeals in the case referred to (Ives vs. South Buffalo Railway Co., 201 N. Y. 271) were wrong. But no degree of dissatisfaction with that decision can excuse such glaring misstatements of fact as are contained in the foregoing quotation. There are some doctrines set forth in the opinions in the Ives case which it may be contended are directly contrary to doctrines laid down in opinions of the United States Supreme Court and of other courts. But that a decision directly the reverse of that of the New York Court of Appeals in the Ives case has been rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States or the courts of Iowa is wholly untrue, for the question decided in the Ives case has not yet been before those courts and there has been no decision by them on it. As to the merits of the decision there is a good deal to be said on both sides; but whatever is said should be confined to the truth.

All the statutes held unconstitutional in the decisions complained of by Mr. Roosevelt sought to make sweeping changes in our laws for the real or alleged purpose of remedying certain social evils which admittedly demand remedy. But those statutes were all more or less ill designed for their respective purposes and so framed as to cause incidentally a disproportionate amount of harm and injustice. By invalidating them the courts have delayed, but they certainly have not prevented, the adoption of true remedies for the evils aimed at; and by some of those decisions they have protected minorities from oppression and injustice under the false guise of statutory regulations for the correction of social evils. P. TECUMSEH SHERMAN.

NEW YORK, April 23.

POETRY ONCE MORE.

Oklahoma Repeats Its Serious Doubts About the Future of Song.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have been edified by reading the admirable Mr. Creighton's letter to THE SUN of April 16. I wish he would treat my hound dog a little more gently; but let it pass. Those who venture upon wide waters must expect buffetings, and so far as I am rebuked I am rebuked. In fact there is a good deal of force in Mr. Creighton's suggestions. I think, however, he misunderstood me. I was not holding a thesis, but asking a question, perhaps with pessimistic leanings. I agree with all he says about Messrs. Viereck and company.

Like Mr. Creighton, I am not able to see much evidence of Bacon's authorship of the Shakespeare writings in his paraphrases of the Psalms. And so generally I find a certain kinship between Mr. Creighton's mental attitude and my own. His general proposition, that in the history of poesy there are barren periods broken by splendid recrudescences, seems borne out. But still one has misgivings. Excepting in the case of Dante, the argument is not very sound, and in so far as Dante is exceptional he may only prove the rule. Even with Dante the exception is probably more apparent than real. While Italian civilization in Dante's time was comparatively old, positively it was primitive, that is in the sense we are considering. Excessively rich in what we call genius, it was essentially barbarous, a conclusion in line with my deduction that art is the product of a rude age. In short Dante's time cannot afford us a satisfactory parallel for the present day.

One great difficulty with poetry nowadays is that it is hard to escape the feeling that there is something forced and artificial about it. To cast one's thought into lines of a certain length with a jingle at the end seems puerile. I say it who should not. I don't mean that I have written poetry. But I have spent enough time reading it. In this day and age the blank misgiving of readers of poetry is that there is something childish about it. Sidney Smith said it was even bad for the nerves. In all this we are aware of something eminently modern.

I do not, and did not, assert that poetry is dead, but I have serious doubts about its future. I do not believe there will ever be another great epic written, that is in the conventional sense. Carlyle's "French Revolution" is no doubt the nearest approach to an epic in our time, and it indicates that the occupation of Homer and Virgil is gone. The weakness of Mr. Creighton's argument is that he takes examples from the youth of the world and argues hence that we may expect like results in the future. Of this we have no assurance. A much better argument is that of Robert Louis Stevenson in his essay "Crabbed Age and Youth": "When the old man waggles his head at the young man and says: 'I thought so too at your age,' he proves the young man's case." There will always be more young men than old men in the world, and if it is natural for young men to be poetical we may expect continued crops of poets. And yet, and yet, the difficulty is not answered, for youth is a matter of spirit and not of years.

C. G. HORNOR.

GUTHRIE, Okla., April 19.

TAME VILLATIC SONG.

The Incomparable Domestico-Commercial Minstrel of Flatbush.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A bas the Manhattan Philosopher and the Butcher of the Bronx! A fig for the peripatetic Dobbler! Born poets are rare, made poets are everywhere, and here in Flatbush we have one ready made to order. How about this for an appeal:

Oh, mother dear, here's such a treat,
Blank's oranges are very sweet.
No bad spot in 'em, always sound,
In fact, the best that can be found.

And hasn't this a martial ring:

March, march, we're all a-marching
To Smithson's store on Umpty street.
His soda is O. K.
I'm sure you all will say,
Let's go and have a glass just for a treat!

For poetic license what can equal this:

Jones can cut a steak just right,
He's the man to do it.
He'll give you one that you can bite,
And throw in lots of suet!
Go to Jones's then at once,
For beef, or pork, or mutton,
Bring your orders in a bunch,
He don't care a button!

Finally dabble, or dobble, in the romance of the following:

When the shadow lightly steals,
And the moon shines out,
Go to Fishem's for your eels,
Perch, or bass, or trout!
If to-morrow's Friday, then
Buy a double share,
Fishem is the best of men
For this kind of fare!

FLATBUSH, April 24. L. T. H.

Tone Mechanics.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your esteemed correspondent Mr. Hosken Strick asks me to define the phrase "tone mechanics" as used by me in a former communication to THE SUN. With pleasure on my brow I respond.

Let us suppose that you have been privileged to hear much concerning the marvellous virtues of a musical organization. Let us suppose that with the stamp of royal approbation it has been presented to you as the best and ablest orchestra in the world. Let us suppose that with happy expectations you go to hear this orchestra. Let us suppose that to your horror and dismay you discover that the ensemble playing of this much heralded organization is ragged, confused, harsh and untunable; that its unison is painfully defective; that some of its members persist at times in playing off the key; that at times the wood winds are half a beat ahead of the strings; that the conductor, possibly to conceal, possibly to counterbalance these eccentricities, gives to the text strained, theatrical and unwarranted readings.

Under such conditions you might be justified if in your grief and disappointment you called the members of that orchestra "tone mechanics."

GEORGE GERRY OSBORN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 23.

Looking Backward.

Argus boasted of his hundred eyes.
"But how many of them are foresight and how many are hindsight?" we asked.

Explaining Baseball.

Knicker—Now do you understand the game?
Sweet Young Thing—Perfectly, except I don't see who that man is running away from.

THE TITANIC.

Necessity of Regulations Prescribing the Duty of Passengers in Emergencies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Passengers on steamers seldom think of the possibility of danger, nor do they inquire upon going aboard whether any regulations exist for the guidance of passengers at a crisis. They supinely believe that all will be taken care of by the ship custodians when the danger comes. The Titanic is said to have been afloat for two hours and forty minutes even after she was practically eviscerated. Half an hour elapsed while investigation was being made of the extent of damage before orders were given to spread the alarm and to man the boats. Even after this delay there was ample time to fill the boats and pull away; yet there was some difficulty at first in inducing the women passengers to take to the boats, because they objected to being exposed to the needless rigors and inconvenience, since in their judgment the ship was unsinkable.

Every ship carrying passengers in oceanic traffic should have regulations prescribing the duties of the passengers in times of peril at sea, from whatsoever cause. A knowledge of such regulations and submission to them should be a condition subject to which every passenger embarks. These rules should prescribe stations where the passengers would promptly congregate in case of fire or collision. As a preliminary to the satisfactory working of this plan each passenger should be given a card or "station billet" containing instructions in case of danger, and upon which the individual station, that is where the passengers assemble and to what boat the bearer is assigned, should be written. The officer in charge of each part of the ship could get in touch, shortly after leaving port, with those who would be under his orders at the time of crisis, by assembling the lifeboat crews at their stations. The natural curiosity of the passengers on deck would give the officers opportunity to instruct the passengers verbally and visually with their duties.

That part of the deck force not detailed to form crews for the boats would be at other stations, as at the davits to lower away the boats as they are filled, or perform duties prescribed for them by the ship's routine in such circumstances. When all boats are launched and away, the remaining officers and men could look out for themselves on the life rafts. Of course this presupposes adequate boat accommodation and equipment. J. A. MITCHELL.

NEW YORK, April 24.

The Best Memorial.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The best memorial of the Titanic catastrophe would be not a monument but a fund to be distributed in prizes for the best devices and even ideas in view of the saving of life at sea in the future. No doubt the wealthy relatives and friends of victims of the disaster, men already well known for their philanthropy, the public in general and possibly the navigation companies would be glad to contribute to such a fund, especially if the award committee was composed of men of high standing, competent and of absolute integrity. Being thus assured that their inventions would not be filched from them, as is often the case, many men of genius but poor would certainly compete and discover new means of safety for the prevention of loss of life at sea.

HENRI DE LAFITOLE.

NEW YORK, April 24.

Remember the Families of the Lost Mail Clerks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I trust that in the distribution of the enormous funds which have been collected for the sufferers of the Titanic disaster the claim of the helpless women and children who have been deprived of their breadwinners will not be overlooked.

I refer especially to the families of the mail clerks, who, from all reports, remained faithful to their trust, safeguarding the property of the Government to the last moment, and even when the water flowed toward them they remained faithful, trying to get the sacks of mail to an upper deck. This is the testimony of officers who saw them to the last.

Had they been more negligent, not faithful to their trust, they might possibly have escaped, but in their effort to save the mail they met their doom.

The pay of these men was not very large and there is no doubt that a portion of the funds collected for the sufferers should be given to the families of these three faithful men. MAIL CLERK.

NEW YORK, April 24.

Criticism of William Alden Smith.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Of all incompetent and inane questions I arise to remark that some of those which Senator Smith is putting to the Titanic survivors will surely go on record as the leaders in that line.

When he asked a survivor to-day "Describe the screams" for no other apparent reason than to thrill a "fashionable" audience, I think it is time to raise a protest, and I am raising mine.

I shall not be surprised if, in referring to those musicians who went down playing "Nearer My God to Thee," Senator Smith thunders out a question as to whether those men were drunk. G. T. W.

NEW YORK, April 24.

Paul Boynton's Waterproof Suit.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. McKellar's suggestion of waterproof life saving suits calls to mind something of that kind invented by the late Captain Paul Boynton about twenty-five years ago. My recollection is that he made a large number of trips equipped with such a suit. No doubt it was too complicated for general use, but it may have contained a valuable principle. G. E. DOAN.

BROOKLYN, April 24.

Airtight as Well as Watertight.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent who recommends a watertight rubber suit, presumably fitting close around the neck, should be asked to put one on and sit in a chair for four hours and see if life would be extinct or not in that time. What is watertight is also airtight, and unless he had some arrangement for ventilating the surface of the body, as Captain Boynton did, he would simply stew in his own juice. Such a suit would be a self-cooker. RUBBER.

NEW YORK, April 24.

Could He Take the Oath?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the event of the election of Theodore Roosevelt to be President of these United States again, what becomes of this requirement? Before he enters on the execution of his office he shall take the following oath or affirmation:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and *will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.*"

PITTSBURG, Pa., April 24. W. C. H.

The First Straw Hat of the Season?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Just for purposes of record I would like to say that I saw on Monday, April 22, in lower Nassau street, a man wearing a straw hat. He wore an overcoat and a straw hat, and when I saw him he stood looking in at a shop window. VINDEX.

NEW YORK, April 24.

The Ship of State.

What of the ship of State! it also rides
Full speed a floe filled sea, and it is night.
This greater ship, of more gigantic might,
Shall it drive onward, while the darkness hides,
To that last plunge, which in the darkness bides,
Dulled to the danger hidden from the sight,
Deaf to the sounded warnings that affright,
Unheedful of the startled voice that chides?

AUTO CLUB LIKELY TO STOP SCRAPPING

Insurgents Think They Have Gained Most of Their Demands.

COMPROMISE REPORT IS IN

The Minority Still Kicks on Proxy Voting and Loose Bookkeeping.

The compromise committee which has been at work since last February on a report to reconcile the difference between the administration and the insurgents in the Automobile Club of America placed that report yesterday in the hands of the club members. The language of the majority statement is regarded as vague concerning at least two of the main points, namely proxy voting and the proper charging off in bookkeeping of the expenses of the business side of the club. Because of this a minority report on these two points has been made.

The administration is nowhere outwardly defeated in its contentions, and the insurgent element, barring the two points mentioned, feels that its demands have been met. There is therefore every chance of harmony from now on in the Automobile Club of America.

The insurgents objected strongly to a proposal by the administration that the club be governed by a self-perpetuating executive committee. The majority report of the committee favors a system of elections somewhat different from that whereby the club shall be governed by a board of governors of twenty-one members, from whose number and by whom officers of the club shall be chosen. The next election, it is provided, it to be held on May 23 if the majority report is accepted by the members at the special meeting on May 1.

The insurgent element was opposed most to the continuance of proxy voting in the club. The majority report, which is signed by Henry W. Taft, Samuel T. Peters, Theodore N. Vail, August Belmont, C. H. Allen, Henry Sanderson and Lewis Cass Ledyard, reaches the general conclusion that it is "inexpedient that any general and permanent rule should be adopted by the club which shall restrict the exercise of proper discretion by the board of governors in the matter of the solicitation of proxies."

The minority objects that this is no answer to the contention of the insurgents and that the whole matter fought to be submitted to a vote of the club, because although the "proper discretion" of the board of governors is all right there is nothing to say what is "improper discretion."

"The solicitation of proxies by the board of governors of a club is a most unusual proceeding, which has nothing to recommend it," says the minority report, signed by Robert Lee Morrell and Alfred Ely. "It has always been considered unfair in a club. It leads often to a wild and unseemly scramble for proxies. It tends always to create and accentuate unnecessary controversies and strong ill feeling both among members and with the board, from an example of which the club is now suffering acutely."

As to the business operations of the club, the insurgents thought it should be definitely stated just what expenses were to be charged to the garage, the shop and the supply store, so that it might be seen what departments were making money and where the money paid in for dues was spent to make up a deficit, if this actually is the case. For instance, the club accountants who were at work making a report for ten months up to December 31, 1911, gave figures that seemed to show a profit of $95,000 from the business departments. The insurgents objected that their proportion of the general expenses of $144,000 had not been charged against these departments.

"The members have requested and have a right to know whether, after charging against these departments their proportion of the general charges and expenses, there remains from the business operations a profit or a deficit," says the minority report.

The majority report gives the information that these figures aren't obtainable because the books haven't been kept that way, although perhaps they could be in the future. However, the general idea is that there is nothing in particular to be gained by giving that information. The minority retorts that it isn't a question of what is to be gained, but what ought to be told when the members ask it, and so the minority gives the figures in its own report.

The minority report says:

"Three facts stand out in the report of the accountants who advised the committee: First, that the purely business departments of the club occupy 86.3 per cent. of the club building. Second, that the proportion of taxes, interest, repairs and insurance actually paid for the ten months on the 86 per cent. occupied solely by the business departments is approximately $54,562, yet no deduction of this 'rent' has been made from the $95,000 net earnings during the same period, all of which were, prior to the appointment of this committee, erroneously reported to the club by its then accountants as 'profits,' thus seriously misleading both Governors and members.

"That no part of the general and office expenses which this committee unanimously report should be apportioned in the future has been deducted from the above $95,000 and that if a proper proportion of these with the above 'rent charge' were deducted from the so-called department profits the latter would be dissolved into a deficit which must be made good from the dues of members.

"But upon all these the majority report of the committee is silent."

It is to be noted that in the revised constitution there is preserved the language "generally to maintain a social club devoted to automobilism" as one of the objects of the club. The insurgent element had been fearful of the too great inroads of commercialism, which would have made the institution a business organization run by a self-perpetuating executive committee, as the insurgents phrased it.

Throughout the report the special committee obviously is hampered by its desire not to say anything that may seem to reflect on any preceding acts of the board of governors. Hence a certain vagueness of language.

Women Beat Men in Examination for School Farm Attendants.

Woman has again shown her superiority over man, in the examination for school farm attendants recently held. On the eligible list which was announced yesterday by the Municipal Civil Service Commission of the ten names which head the list the name of only one man appears, and he is second on the list. Miss Jane C. Roth of 218 Westervelt avenue, New Brighton, Staten Island, heads the list with a percentage of 94.2. Seventy-one men and women passed the examination.

$1,500,000 to Repair Mississippi Levees.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—An appropriation of $1,500,000 to be immediately available for the repair of the crevasses and levees on the Mississippi River between the mouth of the Ohio and the mouth of the Mississippi is proposed in a bill introduced to-day by Representative Humphrey of Mississippi.