The Sun.

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1912.

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

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

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

Postage to foreign countries added.

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

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

London office, Effingham House, 1 Arundel street, Strand.
Paris office, 6 Rue de la Michodière, off Rue du Quatre Septembre.
Washington office, Hibbs Building.
Brooklyn office, 106 Livingston street.

Regular readers of THE SUN, daily and Sunday editions, may subscribe for the paper to be sent by mail to them in any part of the country at the rate of 70 cents a month; daily edition, 50 cents a month; additional postage to foreign countries. Addresses changed at option of subscriber. Order may be sent through any newsdealer or to this office.

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.

Are the Democrats looking for a man fit to be Governor who can carry New York against any candidate or candidates the Republicans, united or divided, may put up against him? We modestly embrace the opportunity and high privilege of pointing out the obvious and naming such a man. He is a neighbor of ours across the street. He is the best Executive this town ever had. If it is not in him to make one of the best Chief Magistrates the State has ever had THE SUN will undertake to eat the City Hall, from the statue with the golden scales down to foundation stone. His mind is straightaway and fearless, his experience as broad as his acumen is fine, his prudence and patience and toleration in large affairs as remarkable as his swift acerbity under provocation in small matters, his intelligent devotion to the interests of honest government unsurpassed. For ripe wisdom adorned by humane wit Mr. BAEDEKER certainly would double-star Mayor GAYNOR.

The Royal Society.

To-day the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge celebrates the 250th anniversary of the day when it received its first charter from King CHARLES II. The charter gave a corporate shape to meetings of "philosophers" that had been going on for nearly twenty years, with more or less formality and regularity, in London and Oxford, and had turned more and more to the performance of experiments in science. The man who started the meetings is believed to have been a German from the Palatinate, which JAMES I.'s son-in-law had lost, and among the first to join the group was ROBERT BOYLE, "the father of chemistry and brother of the Earl of Cork." These men turned from the religious wrangles between churchmen, Puritans, Presbyterians, independents and the rest, and the political disputes that were rending the country, while CHARLES I. was fighting his Parliament and losing his head, and OLIVER CROMWELL was trying to set England right again, and CHARLES II. was enjoying his "great and glorious restoration," to the new learning for which FRANCIS BACON gave the impulse to Englishmen.

The first scientific society in Great Britain in point of time has remained the first in rank and public esteem. No academic honor is held so high as the right to add the letters F. R. S. to a man's name. No learned society is so famous, unless it be the French Academy. The society has had its ups and downs, just as the development of science has; it has counted among its presidents great noblemen, and amateurs like SAMUEL PEPYS; but it also had a quarter of a century of Sir ISAAC NEWTON, nearly as long a term of Sir JOSEPH BANKS, the companion of Captain COOK, who reformed the society, and in later years Sir HUMPHRY DAVY, Sir JOSEPH HOOKER, HUXLEY, Lord KELVIN and its present head, Sir ARCHIBALD GEIKIE. The specialization of science in the nineteenth century has led to the formation of countless other societies and associations, each with its own narrow field, but the Royal Society still holds its eminence over all and keeps its grasp firmly on the field of mathematics, astronomy, physics and even chemistry. Its annual meeting is an event of the importance.

It is curious to note that this earliest organized institution for "improving natural knowledge" should only now be observing its quarter-millenary. The establishment of the first home of learning in the United States, Harvard College, antedates it by a quarter of a century, and that little school at Cambridge was turning out graduates before a handful of "natural philosophers" had begun to meet at Gresham House.

Professor and Professional.

A new demonstration of the peculiar genius of the man who equally satisfies the political ideals of Dr. LYMAN ABBOTT and WILLIAM FLINN is again revealed characteristically in the selection of Bull Moose representatives in this county. The conjunction of the names of the Hon. GEORGE WASHINGTON KIRCHWEY of Columbia University and the Hon. WILLIAM HALPIN, Professor Emeritus of the Odell College of Practical Politics, leaves no doubt as to who made the choice.

Reference to the impressive record of Professor KIRCHWEY's past and present distinctions informs us that he is Doctor of Laws by virtue of the degrees of Yale, New York University and the University of Cincinnati and Kent Professor of Law at the Columbia Law School. While we know of no compendium of the equally impressive if less distinctive titles bestowed upon his associate, the Hon. WILLIAM HALPIN, the slightest reference to back files of the press of this city during the years when ex-Governor B. B. ODELL, Jr., controlled the fortunes of the Republicans of this county will reveal an attractive collection.

Thus are the Professor and the professional united in the service of the great Progressive, and the great Progressive himself proves once again his ability to employ the rose and the onion without offending the æsthetic or discouraging the practical.

Governor Wilson's Campaign.

Governor WILSON is going to run his own campaign and he is going to run it on a plan that, while it may irritate some of the old stagers, is refreshing to the mind weary of the ancient conventional impostures and illusions of political management. He calls in some very able men of affairs, men new politically, enthusiastic, teachable and not hidebound, as a sort of lay assistants or assessors, to sit with the regulars of the National Committee; and of these regulars some of the most influential are but beginners, with small experience of or relish for the archaic style of politics.

It is probable that the country will be grateful for something new and different in the art of canvassing and campaign direction. The importance of the National Committee and of its chairman has, we think, not seldom been greatly overestimated. Legends of its diabolic shrewdness and subtlety have grown up; many solemn nonentities have wagged their chins oracularly, "sat around" at headquarters and done nothing; and after all what does the whole system amount to in the absence of "blocks of five" and other antique devices too coarse for this enlightened age? Unless he gets the briber drunk or otherwise sees that he keeps away from the polls, the briber is a dupe. There was a certain finesse in some of the old committeemen, to be sure; for instance, using Republican money to buy Democratic votes or vice versa lest a State cease to be "doubtful" and so on. We are far from depreciating the value of local knowledge in politics, but it is the people and not the managers who carry elections; and every four years a lot of money is spent unnecessarily and a lot of parasites maintained.

The combination of clean men of business with clean politicians working in the open under a candidate so recently an amateur and yet so easily and astoundingly routing the professionals will be worth watching, and whatever temporary jealousies it may stir, why shouldn't it work well? There is no sound reason that we can see why a political campaign shouldn't be carried on in the sight of everybody. Mystery, trickiness, "subterranean" ways engage small minds, and the politicians love to magnify their office, and often have as much sense of proportion as the frog that tried to swell himself into an ox.

The popular subscription idea for the campaign fund is old enough, but this is the first time perhaps that it is seriously exploited, and necessity would lead Dr. WILSON to it even if his choice didn't. The old wicked plutocratic "corporationist" feeders wouldn't give if they could and couldn't give if they would to either side. Their money has long been tainted, but hitherto they have been allowed to drop it in the box on the sly. Now, what with laws and enforced publicity and an improved public feeling and the general increment of virtue, predatory wealth must sing and sign very small. So the people must contribute; and will they if the cost of living so cramps them? At any rate, Dr. WILSON'S campaign arrangements seem to be simple and unhackneyed; and we shouldn't wonder if he were supplanting an outworn and hollow system by something sounder and stronger.

Our Triumph at Stockholm.

To win almost as many points in the track and field events as all other competing nations in the Olympic games at Stockholm was another memorable and glorious victory for the athletes representing the United States, and the greatest of all. Only less meritorious was the superiority they demonstrated in the sports as a whole that were open to competition.

While it is true that the American athletes were strong in numbers and no money was spared to send them into the games in the best physical condition, it must be borne in mind that they tried conclusions with all the rest of the world, with the strongest, fleetest and most skilful and versatile champions of Europe, Asia, Australasia and Africa.

To excel them one and all in sports of the track and field, those sports that test speed and stamina most, was an achievement not to be anticipated in the games of 1912, which brought together a much larger and more various and representative host of athletes than assembled in London four years ago. And yet the Americans came within an ace of defeating all creation pitted against them. Really it may be said of the competition for superiority in track and field events that it was a case of the United States first, the rest nowhere.

If the acclaim is loud and exultant, pray, why not? If the Stars and Stripes are waved in triumph, and perhaps too flauntingly for the peace of mind of Mother England, from whom the sceptre has passed, it is the exuberance of youth that will not be denied and the expression of a patriotic spirit that Americans need make no apologies for.

If neither HEROD HENRY nor HIRAM JOHNSON of California will consent to be the tail of the Squeal ticket, it should be CAPPER of Kansas.

Cannot the Hon. COLE LIVINGSTON BLEASE, Governor of South Carolina, refrain from fire and slaughter until cold weather?

"THE LABORATORY OF EXPERIMENTAL LEGISLATION."

Candid Report of Facts From Wisconsin, the Most Progressive of States.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., July 13.—The demand for a nationwide primary election law, which appears to be increasing in volume, justifies a different treatment of the subject from any that it has so far received. A report from Wisconsin, "the most Progressive State," where the primary law has been in operation for eight years, may be of general interest, particularly if it sticks to facts and eschews declamation, as shall be the purpose of this letter.

Everybody should know that Wisconsin has been said by Colonel Roosevelt, and cheerfully admitted by those conducting the experiments, to be "literally a laboratory for wise experimental legislation." We who live in the State do not all, or always, recognize our blessings. Some of us would be more likely to express ourselves in a somewhat different laboratory figure and say that we have been the blind mice upon which the experimental doctors and their internes have tried all the toxins and serums and radioactive batteries of their most venturesome dreams. We have, so far, lived through it, and have been so often proclaimed as purified and exalted that we would believe it ourselves if we did not occasionally abandon the field of pure fancy and speculation for that of hard, cold facts.

The basis for all the radiant claims that we are coming up to the light faster than any other Commonwealth is the familiar assertion that the primary election system has "restored democratic government," brought "the people" into their own and retired the political "bosses." It is the purpose to present facts which refute these claims and to allow these facts opportunity to speak for themselves. If they refute the basic pretension all the other extravagant Progressive assertions must topple over with it.

In 1904, after three years of legislative and Statewide discussion, Wisconsin adopted a primary election law by referendum vote. Only 130,699 votes were cast in favor of the law and but 80,192 against it, the total polled being 210,891 votes. The State at that time contained over 600,000 male citizens of voting age, only one-third of whom took enough interest in this momentous question to vote upon it at all and only one-fifth voted in its favor.

Four primary elections have since been held under this statute, and the aggregate vote polled by all parties has but once equalled that cast upon the adoption of the law in 1904. This, too, despite the fact that there has been a steady increase in the voting population until there were 683,743 males of voting age in Wisconsin in September, 1910. Then mainly because there were five Republican candidates contesting for the Gubernatorial nomination, 254,000 votes were polled for that office, which led the list, the next highest vote being cast for United States Senator. This vote, with Senator La Follette among the candidates, aggregated 248,744.

In his message to the Legislature in 1903, before we had a primary law, Governor La Follette said:

> The largest attendance upon caucuses in the history of political contests in Wisconsin resulted in polling less than 40 per cent. of those entitled to vote.

No election held under the primary law since that time has shown a poll anywhere near equal to 40 per cent. of the State's voting population. Minority rule is certainly "progressive" and progressing.

Since the adoption of the primary election law there has been cast at each succeeding general election a progressively diminishing total vote, although there has been a steadily increasing aggregate of voters, until at the general State election in 1910 the vote was the smallest polled within twenty years. The stay at homes aggregated almost 54 per cent. of the total number of males of voting age. Twenty years earlier the stay at homes were but 33 per cent.

In his message of 1903 referred to Governor La Follette also said:

> If the caucus and convention system operates to exclude a majority of the voters from taking part in making the nomination it abridges the right of suffrage, it weakens the voter's interest and affection for the State, it instils apprehension and suspicion with respect to that government which the citizen comes more and more to feel is not his government, and deprives the State of that loyalty and devotion which are nourished in unification of interests born out of the largest measure of direct personal participation possible in a representative democracy. This is but another way of saying that the basic principle of democracy is personal responsibility; that there can be no personal responsibility unless the voters are partakers in the government.

The logic of this statement is that though the old system was bad a system that demonstrates steadily increasing indifference on the part of the voters must be growing constantly worse.

When the first bill for a primary election law was introduced in the Legislature by Assemblyman E. Ray Stevens, now Circuit Judge, the late Henry C. Adams, then State Dairy and Food Commissioner, afterward a member of Congress from the Madison district, was put forward by Governor La Follette and his supporters, as their champion, in a public discussion of the proposed law, held in the Assembly chamber on the evening of February 12, 1901. It was generally admitted that Mr. Adams made the most able, popular and persuasive argument in favor of the bill. His most interesting statement, in the light of experience, is in regard to the comparative cost of the old system with the new one he proposed. Upon this point he said:

> The operation of the proposed law would entail small expense upon the State. The claim that it would compel an expenditure of $100,000 in each election is absurd. The following estimate of expenses necessitated by this bill if it shall become a law covers the entire cost:

Publication of notices in 140 newspapers at $40 for each paper	$5,600
Printing 1,000,000 official ballots	4,500
Clerks and inspectors in 1,300 country precincts	13,000
Additional inspectors required in 800 city precincts	7,500
Total	$30,600

> These estimates are based upon figures obtained from the office of the State printers and from a calculation that clerks and inspectors in country precincts will be paid upon an average of $2 a day, and that the additional expense in cities where registration is provided for would be that involved in the employment of three inspectors in each precinct at $3 a day, the maximum limit established by law.
>
> Under the present system there are held in this State in each election year at least 6,000 caucuses, 300 Assembly and Senatorial conventions, 25 Congressional conventions, 250 county conventions and three State conventions, making a total of very nearly 600 conventions. At least 3,000 delegates attend the State conventions. It is a moderate estimate to assume that the cost to each delegate is $25. This would make the cost of the State conventions $75,000. The cost of attendance to delegates to the remaining 575 conventions would undoubtedly be double this figure. But, assuming that it is no greater, it would make the total cost of the present system $150,000 in an election year, an amount five times as great as that which must be expended under the provisions of this bill.

So far as the real cost of this law to the people of the State is concerned it will be a very great saving, not only of money but of time.

In the heat of this primary discussion ten years ago Mr. Ernst Christopher Meyer, then a student or postgraduate at the University of Wisconsin, published a volume of over 500 pages entitled "Nominating Systems: Direct Primaries vs. Conventions in the United States." Viewed under the white light of experience much that it contained is now very interesting and its discussion of the question of expense is particularly so. Mr. Meyer accepted the figures and estimates of Mr. Adams and carried calculations based upon them much further than his more politically wise mentor.

For example, reducing the estimated cost of $150,000 for the convention system to a per capita basis, he says:

> This puts the cost of primaries at about seven cents a voter. In return for this small outlay he is enabled to vote for each and every candidate of his choice, all in the space of a few brief moments.

"All this for seven cents!" exclaims the exultant Mr. Meyer. "He who objects to paying this meagre sum for the sake of good government does not deserve to enjoy its blessings."

It is not surprising that the book of Mr. Meyer, which was approved by Governor La Follette, received wide circulation as a campaign document in favor of the primary election "principle," as its advocates delight to call it.

It should be noted that for these estimates of $150,000 for the cost of caucuses and conventions there were no accurate and recorded data, but this expense was provided for, like the outlay of committees and candidates under the present system, from the voluntary expenditures and contributions of individuals. None of it came from a public treasury. So far, therefore, as the primary law provided for expenses to be borne by the State, by counties and by cities, it laid an entirely new burden upon the taxpayers.

Against this estimated cost of $150,000 for caucuses and conventions it is proper to set off all the expense accounts filed by political committees and candidates under the present law. Against the estimates by Mr. Adams of the prospective public cost of primary it is proper to set the cost now reported as the actual experience of the State and its minor political divisions under the primary law.

An attempt has been made to gather the data necessary to exhibit the cost of the two elections, primary and general, held in the year 1910. Reports have been secured entirely through official sources from the State and from every county in Wisconsin.

These reports demonstrate first that the law is not observed, and secondly that it is not enforced. To sustain this assertion it is only necessary to say that in thirty-two of the seventy-one counties of Wisconsin there was no report filed from a political committee, although four party organizations were contending in that election.

It was asserted on the floor of the State Senate by a Progressive Senator, Mr. Martin of Lafayette, that the election of 1910 was too costly, that its cost approximated $600,000. That figure is altogether too low. The cost of that campaign would, if the figures could be obtained, which is impossible, show a gross expense far in excess of a million dollars. The very imperfect record of expenses on file with the State and counties exceeds $765,000, more than five times the most reckless estimates Mr. Adams and Mr. Meyer had dared to make on the old system, and more than twenty-five times as great as their advance estimates of the probable public cost of the primary system.

There were 161,577 votes polled for Governor McGovern in 1910. If all the expenses were charged to the successful party the cost of these votes is approximately $4.70 each.

The total vote polled by all parties for Governor at the general election of 1910 was 319,522, so each vote cost about $2.40.

This is a showing based upon very imperfect and fragmentary data but absolutely reliable as far as it professes to go. There are, besides political committees, many candidates who filed no expense accounts. In a few instances they have been legally called to account, but every one knows that the record is incomplete and that thousands of dollars were expended by friends of the candidates for which the law provided no accounting.

It will suggest how much is lacking to mention that the Anti-Saloon League and the brewers had been actively engaged in a Statewide and purely political conflict for over two years before the election of 1910, and both had directed their efforts to the election of members of the Legislature. Neither made a report of expenditures, for neither was a political party, so neither was amenable to the election law or the corrupt practices law.

The expenses in Milwaukee county for 1910 were fairly typical, though far more complete and accurate than those obtained from most of the other counties. The following table illustrates, therefore, and probably in a fairly relative sense, the expenses of all other counties. Milwaukee county polled 61,327 votes:

Expenses of the county—		
For the primary election	$10,656.57	
For the general election	17,867.73	$28,424.30
Expenses filed by political committees		40,520.91
Expenses filed by candidates		23,792.20
Total		$92,737.41

These figures do not include the amounts spent in Milwaukee county by candidates for the United States Senate, for Representatives in Congress, for State offices or by political State committees. All of these items were filed in the office of the Secretary of State. If Milwaukee's part could be separated from the rest, which is impossible, it is safe to say that added to the expenses filed with the county $125,000 would more nearly represent the entire cost of the 1910 election in this county.

The expenses of successful candidates cannot be wholly separated as to the primary, but there is no doubt that the primary election is more costly than the general election. Successful candidates make one report of all their expenses after they are elected to office, without separating the two elections.

There are many more facts of public record which would afford aid to candid students which are seldom mentioned even in Wisconsin. For example, Senator La Follette has never yet polled as many votes as his immediate predecessor, Governor Edward Scofield.

The total vote for Francis McGovern for Governor in 1910 was smaller by 1,637 votes than that polled for Governor Jeremiah M. Rusk in 1884, twenty-six years earlier, when the State had a smaller population by 900,000. And what is even more striking, the total vote polled in 1884 was 456 greater than that of 1910.

The Democratic party as the minority party seems to have been the greater sufferer in this season of declining political interest. Its vote for Governor in 1910 was 110,446, or 33,499 smaller than that given to Fratt, the Democratic candidate for Governor in 1884, and nearly 68,000 less than George W. Peck polled in 1892. In some counties that party's vote has almost disappeared. In Door county, for instance, Schmitz, Democratic candidate for Governor in 1910, polled 279 votes. Peck in 1892 polled 1,020. In Douglas the Democrat fell from 2,231 to 454. But one county in the State showed an increased Democratic vote, although the population has grown steadily during the eighteen years. The culmination of Democratic demoralization is realized in the fact that in thirty counties of the State there were in 1910 no Democratic nominations for county officers.

It is unnecessary to continue this accumulation of facts. There is no escape from the record.

The new book on Wisconsin from the introduction to which the quotation from Colonel Roosevelt is taken refers to the "tarnished grandeur of the Constitution," and "the Wisconsin Idea" is contrastingly glorified. The author occupies a tripod of political authority among us. He is librarian of the State's Legislative Reference Library, the draughtsman and architect of many of our most progressive laws and a lecturer in political science in the University of Wisconsin. With his comprehensive and expanding usefulness the session's output of our Legislature has grown from 357 laws in 1899 to 665 new statutes and amendments in 1911, the last year of the Scofield administration.

As was said at the outset, the chief claim for our new election methods is that they are "bringing the government back to the people." I deny it and meet the assertion with facts.

I firmly believe, though this is a matter of opinion, without conclusive proof, but just as valuable as the assertions of our Progressive fiction mongers, that practically every election law, beginning with the Wisconsin Australian ballot law, so called, has been laden with added obstructions to political independence. This law put a limit upon freedom of political action by establishing a percentage of votes as a prerequisite to a party place on the official ballot. That and similar laws were a serious obstruction to the Gold Democratic movement of 1896, and to-day, as Colonel Roosevelt will learn, it is an enormously costly if not an impossible task to break down the legal barriers to genuine and effective independent political action.

The legal recognition of party organization and management is a step backward. It is making minority despotism the rule of our politics. It is revolutionary and subversive of representative government as the fathers established it in these United States.

SOLDIERS OF IRISH DESCENT.

Mr. Cuvillier's Bill for a Memorial to Meagher's Men.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In reply to a letter in THE SUN in reference to a monument to the heroes of the Irish and Irish Americans who gave up their lives during the civil war and especially to the gallant Sixty-ninth Regiment and to Meagher's Irish Brigade, that served in and participated in all the battles from Bull Run to Appomattox and lost about 3,000 men, more in proportion than any other brigade on the Union side, permit me to state that I have for the last five years introduced in the Legislature a bill to erect a monument to Meagher's Irish Brigade in the city of New York, carrying an appropriation of $10,000. This bill passed the Legislature last year and was vetoed by Governor Dix on the ground that the State's financial condition would not warrant the appropriation.

I believe that if I had the full cooperation of the Irish and Irish Americans of the city of New York behind me the bill would have been signed by the Governor, but, as "Neally" well says, "ink is cheap and so is oratory." When it comes to cherishing the memory of the Irish heroes they lack the enthusiasm they so well display for the living.

I cannot understand why, of all Irish Americans for these many years who have been in the Legislature, not one introduced a bill of this character for the benefit of the Irish and Irish American soldiers; it was left to an American with a French name.

LOUIS A. CUVILLIER,
Assemblyman, Thirtieth District.
NEW YORK, July 14.

A Monument at Gettysburg to the Irish Brigade.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* THE SUN'S correspondent "Neally" inquires: "Where is there a monument to the memory of Irish heroism on the battlefields of America?"

He should not be disappointed at not finding such a monument in a city playground. Being a veteran of the civil war he should betake himself to the battlefield of Gettysburg, in the vicinity of the wheatfield, the scene of the sanguinary fight on the second day, where he will behold an imposing monument commemorating the valor of the Irish Brigade, with which the Sixty-ninth New York Regiment was identified.

FRANK HUBER.
BROOKLYN, July 14.

A Pompeiian Zaccheus.

The most startling and pitiful collection in the museum at Pompeii is that of the plaster casts of people and animals that have been discovered there. The excavators work with great caution and once in a while tap a place in the ashes that sounds hollow; they make an opening in this, remove the contents of the cavity and then fill it with plaster of paris. This preserves the contours of the figure that kept the ashes in place and has since decayed. The latest addition to the collection tells the story of the victim's end in a remarkable manner.

A hollow was found recently outside the Nola gate on the east side of Pompeii, a few steps from the monument of Æsquilia Polla. After the cast was taken it was found to be the huddled up body of a man holding his left hand over his mouth, while the right arm was extended above his head. Fastened to the body were three fragments of branches, one next the head, another, a forked piece, was attached to the left ankle. It is clear that the man had climbed a tree hoping to escape from the shower of ashes and that man and branches had fallen together. His money was found in a linen bag, eight silver denarii dated from Cæsar's time to that of Titus and a copper as of Titus; with this was an iron finger ring holding a carnelian on which is engraved the sign of Capricorn between a star and a ship's rudder.

When the Fairies May Be Seen.

Some believe that fairies
Only dance by night,
Vanish with the coming
Of the morning light.
Nay, 'tis in life's sunrise
They are only seen,
Elves and fays and goblins
Tripping on the green.

Noonlight is too blinding
To the eyes of man,
No one ever sees them
Past meridian.
Moonlight is too searching,
Starlight is too wise.
They are only dancing
Where the dawnlight lies.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

MEDITERRANEAN FLEETS.

Present and Future Strength of the French Squadrons.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In an editorial on the Russian fleet you speak of the "virtual surrender to Italy and Austria of naval supremacy in the Mediterranean" as a result of Great Britain's withdrawal of ships from Malta and Gibraltar, combined with the "failure of France to keep pace in the race for naval power."

The figures in the "Statesman's Year Book" for 1912 do not support this view. They show that the French navy is stronger than those of Italy and Austria combined:

	France.	Italy. Austria.
Dreadnoughts	2	2
Battleships	22	24
Cruisers	29	13
Destroyers	87	47
Submarines	90	25

Six of the French battleships belong to the Danton class and are superior to any of the opposed ships save the single Italian dreadnought Dante Alighieri; the Austrian dreadnought Viribus Unitis was recently reported in your columns as defective in construction.

French supremacy in the Mediterranean is what has made possible the British concentration in the Narrow Seas. JONES.
NEW YORK, July 15.

Our correspondent is correct in his assertion that at the moment French naval strength in the Mediterranean exceeds the combined force of Italy and Austria. The French failure to keep pace, which THE SUN mentioned, has been in the naval programmes of the past two or three years, which will fix the naval strength in 1913 and 1914. The following extract from the London *Daily Mail*, which can be confirmed by reference to the "Statesman's Year Book," establishes the point:

> Italy and Austria have six modern battleships completing afloat. France has two. Built, building and projected, Italy has six dreadnoughts and Austria four. These are due to be completed in 1914. At that date France will have four due to be completed. In 1916 the estimated figures will be: Italy 8, Austria 6, France 9.

The sole difference between this estimate and that of the "Statesman's Year Book" is that the latter gives France one more ship in 1914, doubtless that recently authorized to replace the lost Liberté.

TABLE PARTNERS.

Should Guests Have the Privilege of Choosing or Changing Them?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Lately I was asked to dinner to meet a social lion, and for once I allowed myself to be clutched by the swallowtails. There is as much art in assorting mates on these occasions as there is in hanging pictures, but my hostess made a sad mésalliance when she told me off to a minor attachment which, I am sure, was uncongenial to both parties. I had to talk to an unsympathetic soul that I had not even made the mistake of selecting, and Mother Grundy would most certainly have sanctioned an easy divorce on the grounds of incompatibility.

Why shouldn't we have the same privilege at a dinner as we have at a dance, the privilege of choosing one's partner? Or, say, of choosing one's partner for each course? I know ladies who would be admirable partners in the soup course, others who would suit the fish, débutantes who would chime in with the entrée, ample matrons who would grace the joint, while the sweets I would reserve for my temporary idol, who would also satisfactorily carry off the cheese, and last, no doubt, till we both got our desserts.

If this revolution be too startling I would suggest that monotony be avoided by employing a round table, and let the knights change seats as in "Alice in Wonderland." Then at all events we would have a few moments with our accurate mate, and, as we all know, when a man meets his accurate mate, society is happy and life and food are delicious. APICIUS.
NEW YORK, July 15.

MEN OF STRAW.

Petty Brooklyn Thieves Who Grab Hats Through Car Windows.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A new form of robbery has come to light in Brooklyn, and detectives employed by the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company and by the city are trying to run down the thieves, who are reaping a harvest throughout the borough.

These robbers began with snatching straw hats from passengers on trolley and elevated cars. This became so successful that they went after more profitable plunder, such as pocketbooks and handbags. The police have found it very difficult to get on their trail, as they jump from place to place. When complaints are made to the police the thieves hie to another part of the town.

It was at the opening of the summer season when almost every one was investing in a straw hat that the "game of grab" was started. The crooks, it is believed, "got a line" on the scheme from the antics of Coney Island merrymakers. A friend would bid a comrade good-by at the station, then thrust his hand through the window and seize the other's hat, but before the train got away would restore the hat amid laughter.

Quick witted thieves decided that this would be a good way to "get some coin." Ordinary straw hats would not be taken, only high priced ones. An unsuspecting passenger would sit down near an open window after the car had pulled up at the station, when a hand would reach from the platform and like a flash his hat was gone. Before he could do anything the train had passed the station and the thief was making his way to the exit stairs.

A week ago I was on my way to Coney Island and one of these thieves snatched a passenger's hat from his head and walked away with it as though some one had just given it to him as a present. Recently the robbers have turned their attention to more valuable swag. Nearly all police captains have been warned to look out for these crooks, but they do not seem to round them up. VICTIM.
BROOKLYN, July 15.

Taft Democrats.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In forecasting the result of the coming election the fact should not be lost sight of that there are throughout the country thousands of Democrats, healthy minded men with red blood in their veins, whose sense of fairness has been shocked by the injustice, brutality and indecency of the attacks upon President Taft and who are thoroughly disgusted with the nauseating selfishness and hypocrisy of the Bull Moose movement. It will not be surprising to see a very large number of these Democrats voting for Taft. CYRUS WINSLOW.
NEW YORK, July 15.

Candidate Jim Tom Jones.

Who keers for Taft or Wilson, and who keers
for Teddy R.?
Who's cryin' over Bryan and the way he give
a jar
To old Champ Clark of Bowlin' Green? And
who Jim Sherman be,
Or that there Marshall feller, hain't a-worryin' of me.

I'm Jim Tom Jones of Caney Creek,
And hain't nobody's fool;
But I'm here to state I'm a candidate
For township constabule.

This tariff question cuts no ice at all in my campaign;
And these here trusts that Teddy busts jest simply gives me pain;
The sacred cause o' labor never keeps me up o' nights,
And I hain't botherin' a bit about the people's rights.

I'm Jim Tom Jones of Caney Creek;
My platform's in my hat,
And I'm a-runnin' and out a-gunnin'
For constabule—jest that.

I'll let these hifalutin sharps around the county seat
Do all the flabbergastin' 'bout the cost o' things to eat.
They all can run for Congress and for Governor and sich
And tell us how we're trampled by the predatory rich.

I'm Jim Tom Jones of Caney Creek
And I'm a keepin' cool,
With no opposition for the proposition
Of township constabule.

ROBERTUS LOVE

STRAUS BOARD HEARS ENGINEERS' DEMANDS

Arbitrators Begin Sessions at Manhattan Beach, Which Will Have Far Reaching Effect.

RAILWAY WAGES INVOLVED

Grand Chief Stone Presents Statistics in Behalf of Increase for His Men.

The case of the locomotive engineers on fifty-two of the railroads east of Chicago and north of the Norfolk and Western Railway who demand an increase of wages aggregating $7,500,000 a year was opened yesterday before a board of arbitration which is conducting hearings at the Oriental Hotel, Manhattan Beach. The task before the commission is important, for the reason that upon its decision hinges not only the question at issue but also whether the firemen as well as other employees on these same roads shall get their demands, which will be many times as great.

The engineers first made their demands on March 18, and after a series of meetings the railroads denied the increase on the ground that it would be ruinous to them. The engineers voted to strike and a tieup was prevented only by the agreement to arbitrate. Both sides agreed to accept the decision of the commission. The railroads are represented by Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio, and the engineers by P. H. Morrissey, former president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. The five other members, who were chosen by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the presiding Judge of the United States Commerce Court and the Commissioner of Labor, are Oscar Straus, chairman; Charles Richard Van Hise, president of the University of Wisconsin; Frederick Newton Judson, a St. Louis lawyer; Otto M. Eidlitz, a prominent New York contractor, and Albert Shaw, editor of the *Review of Reviews*.

When Mr. Straus called for the representatives of each side yesterday afternoon Warren C. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, said that he and M. W. Cadle would present the demands. The railroads appear by B. A. Worthington, president of the Chicago and Alton; O. F. Butterfield, general counsel for the New York Central; Francis J. Gowan, counsel for the Pennsylvania, and G. E. Brownell, the Erie's lawyer. The big meeting room was crowded with lawyers and officials from other roads, members of the Brotherhood of Engineers and of various other labor organizations.

"There are 29,670 engineers involved in this dispute, said Grand Chief Stone in beginning the statement for the men, "and their demand to the respective managers of the railroads for a fixed rate of pay and working hours resulted in nothing. There are two questions involved in our demands: First of all, a standardization of pay and conditions so that a man on one line will receive as much for the same work as a man on any other road, and, secondly, an increase in wages. We feel that we are entitled to more than we demand because of the changing conditions that affect the engineer. We do not base our demand wholly upon the cost of living, because we belive that the cost of living depends upon conditions of living. What we do found our case upon are these things:

"The responsibility of the engineer is on the increase. Bigger trains, greater speed and more signals come yearly, and with them the responsibility of the man in the cab becomes greater.

"Great skill and efficiency are demanded. The years of training are long, and the work is hard before a man is fitted to become an engineer. Fifteen per cent. of the firemen never become engineers because the white heat of the firebox injures their eyesight, and for other reasons only seventeen of every 100 reach the cab.

"The hazards of the calling are so great that the ordinary insurance company will not risk an engineer, and we have our own insurance department. The figures of this department show that from January 1, 1897, to December 31, 1911, 2,550 engineers died on duty; 407 were blinded, 497 had their hands amputated and 71 killed themselves. It is compulsory for all the members of the brotherhood to take out insurance. The average insured life is 11 years and 7 days. This is why we demand more than a living wage. A man must provide for his family, and the engineer goes to the industrial junk pile very early. Years of rigid routine and machinelike accuracy are demanded of him. They tell in the end, and when at last he makes a slight mistake years of faithful service are forgotten, and he is cast adrift without hope of employment.

"The hours that an engineer is compelled to work are often inhuman. Here are figures from ten railroads from July, 1911, to March, 1912, compiled by the Interstate Commerce Commission showing that 8,413 men were compelled to work sixteen hours at a stretch and there is one instance where a man was seventy-three hours on duty."

Mr. Straus asked the witness where he got his information and also wanted terms defined which he did not understand. Lawyer Butterfield asked that all the statements of fact be made under oath, but to this the commissioners would not agree.

"The railroads ask that we put off our demands until they make desired improvements on grades, &c.," continued Mr. Stone, "but if we did that we would wait until the millennium. The custom always has been to regard the standard of an engineer's day as 100 miles and ten hours. That is, when he has run 100 miles he has done his day's work. If it takes him more than ten hours to go that distance or if he goes more than 100 miles we ask that he be paid overtime pro rata."

The witness explained that in the West and Southeast the engineers received more pay than in the East, although the congested population makes conditions more trying for them here.

The first specific demand to be taken up was that fixing the pay of engineers on passenger trains at $4.40 a day for engines with twenty inch cylinders and $4.60 on engines with cylinders of greater diameter. The next clause related to electric service and here the engineers demand that whenever any part of a system is changed from steam to electric or other motive power the locomotive engineers shall be retained and that their pay shall be the same.

"We propose to operate the transportation engines of this country whatever the motive power is," said Mr. Stone very emphatically, "and later on when you change to airships we intend to operate them."

In reply to questions he said that he regarded the responsibilities, the requirements and the dangers of the electric engineer to be equally as great as those of the locomotive engineer.

The hearing will be continued this morning.

Physicians' Association Formed.

The New York Physicians Association of the city of New York was incorporated yesterday with the approval of Supreme Court Justice Cavagan. The purpose is to hold clinical meetings and scientific sessions. Among the incorporators are Drs. Herman C. Frauenthal, William S. Gottheil, Archibald E. Isaacs, Robert Abrams and Harry G. Watson.