The Sun.

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The Minnesota Rate Case.

To-day is the regular "decision day" in the Supreme Court of the United States, that is to say, it is the day of the week on which decisions of the court are usually handed down. Wall Street has been expecting each Monday for a long time past a decision of the court in what is known as the Minnesota rate case, and has been more or less restless because the court has held the case under consideration without action for so long a period. We think this impatience is due to the fact that Wall Street and perhaps people generally do not understand that the Minnesota rate case is a complicated one, involving several questions of law that must necessarily require prolonged study and a general nicety of interpretation of law on the part of the members of our supreme judicial tribunal. It has been more or less commonly supposed that the case has but one really leading feature, that referring to a supposed conflict between the orders of the Railroad Commission of Minnesota and the orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission as to certain railway freight rates. There is much more in the case than this.

The suit consists of an action brought by several individual stockholders of railroad companies whose lines traverse the State of Minnesota against the railroad companies themselves, the State Railroad Commission and various other parties to prevent the enforcement of certain rates for railway traffic prescribed by the State of Minnesota or its agents. The action brought was based in general upon two grounds. The first of these was that of which mention has been made, that the railway rates as prescribed by the State operated to produce an interference with interstate commerce, inasmuch as they were greatly below the rates allowed by the Interstate Commerce Commission. It was argued that if the railroads carried freight at the rates proposed by the State they would have to cut the interstate commerce rates, and so bring themselves in conflict with the Federal law. The second ground was that the rates proposed by the State were confiscatory.

As to the first of these pleas there is plainly room for a great deal of legal hairsplitting. Two principles of law and national jurisprudence have to be so arranged as to fit harmoniously in the case under examination. A State Legislature is supreme as to matters of railway conduct disposed wholly within the boundaries of the State. On the other hand, this right of legislation must not be so exercised as to conflict with the just rights of other States. The matter in dispute in the Minnesota rate case may be illustrated by one instance. The cities of Superior, Wisconsin, and Duluth, Minnesota, constitute in fact one commercial centre and both are the same distance from St. Paul. They are really one city. The new Minnesota freight rates would cause a large reduction of existing rates from St. Paul to Duluth, leaving, of course, the rates to Superior from St. Paul unchanged. Yet for clear business reasons the rates to Superior would have to be reduced to the same figures as those to Duluth; and this would improperly interfere, it is alleged, with interstate commerce. Conversely it is argued that an interference with interstate commerce to be illegal and come under the ban of the Supreme Court must be direct and positive, and that such an interference as that suggested in the present case would be merely incidental. The probability is that the Supreme Court is having some difficulty in arriving at a unanimous conclusion on this point.

But the chief interest of the railway companies obviously lies in a decision favorable to them of the remaining point raised in the case, that the new rates are confiscatory. If the Supreme Court holds, as the Master in Chancery and the Circuit Court held, and entered into great detail to show, that a fair return on a fair valuation of the property of the railroads of Minnesota could not be made upon such rates as the State prescribes, the railroad companies will care very little what the decision may be upon the interstate commerce question otherwise presented. It will be highly important for the financial community to bear all these facts in mind when the decision of the Supreme Court is announced.

By Common Report.

All the States have sent to Washington by mail, and forty of them by messenger, sealed envelopes in which are contained the statements of the votes cast by the electors of President and Vice-President this month. The documents are locked up in the office of the President pro tem. of the Senate, and will remain unopened until February 12, when, in the hall of the House of Representatives, the returns will be canvassed and the result of the election announced.

Thus another step in the choosing of the new President will be taken, but one odd omission will not fail to attract attention. There is no official notification of the successful candidates that they have been elected to the offices they are to fill. The lawmakers apparently assumed that the men who offered themselves or were put forward by their friends would need no formal and legal notice of their fate. Therefore the President and Vice-President to be get no authorized commission based on the count of the electors' votes.

In spite of this curious neglect on the part of the Government Mr. WILSON and Mr. MARSHALL are not likely to be late when the time comes on March 4 to take up their new duties.

The Suffrage Hope Deferred.

There seems no longer any doubt that, whatever happens in the debate to-day on Sir EDWARD GREY'S amendment to the franchise bill, the immediate hopes of the English suffragettes are doomed to disappointment. Since the Speaker's ruling that the elimination of the word "male" will so materially change the bill that it will have to be reintroduced, there seems to be no longer any question that the bill will be withdrawn. The only doubt is whether that course will be taken before or after the division on Sir EDWARD GREY'S amendment.

This is an outcome of the matter which should occasion little surprise, although the ruling of the Speaker, which is directly responsible for it, was somewhat unexpected. The outrages of Mrs. PANKHURST and the militants have had the effect of cooling very considerably the ardor of many of the advocates of woman's suffrage in the House of Commons, and the known hostility of Premier ASQUITH to the principle of enfranchising women has doubtless tended to make the rank and file of the Liberal party look askance on a measure which is opposed by their leader. Stronger than any other sentiment, however, is the feeling among members who are not either fanatically in favor of or fanatically opposed to woman's suffrage that so fundamental a change should not be made until the country has had a direct opportunity of recording its vote on the question.

Consequently the present impasse will probably be welcomed with relief by the majority of members on both sides of the House, and the question will once again be conveniently shelved. Naturally the Unionist papers will endeavor to make what political capital they can out of the differences of opinion over the matter in the Cabinet, and there will be no lack of rumors of resignations. Such rumors, however, may safely be disregarded. Premier ASQUITH'S position has been perfectly plain from the outset: that the question would be debated on non-party lines and that the Government would accept the verdict of the House. In making that pledge Mr. ASQUITH had the support of his colleagues, and there is nothing in the situation, curious as it is, which has since occurred that calls for the resignation of any member of the Cabinet.

It is too much to hope that the militants will profit by the lesson they have received. They doubtless will renew their offensive tactics with redoubled energy, and it is unfortunately by no means improbable that the hysteria of individuals may precipitate some serious catastrophe involving injury to persons as well as to property. In that case the realization of suffragist hopes in England is likely to be postponed indefinitely.

The Literacy Test.

The literacy test provided for immigrants in the bill already passed by the House and now pending in the Senate is only half as bad as it might be. An immigrant will not be required to prove that he can write. He must only know how to read. What good qualities possession of this acquired art is supposed to reveal we do not know. The non-partisan wisdom of Congress has divined in it a virtue hidden from others. Probably we should thank heaven that the national legislature has not insisted on the writing of an original poem as a prerequisite for admission to this glorious country.

Secretary NAGEL of the Department of Commerce and Labor recited to the American Association of Foreign Language Newspapers on Saturday night some of the minor disadvantages of such a test. It will be expensive to enforce and unsatisfactory in its results. The selection of 16 as the age at which it will apply is arbitrary and illogical. It will show nothing about the potential usefulness or the actual physical and moral condition of the immigrant. It will not bar from the country one single undesirable who could not otherwise be excluded. It may operate to keep from these shores not a few men much needed by the nation.

We should welcome here all men of good physique and decent behavior, without regard to their knowledge of books. We have done so in the past and have been repaid richly by the conduct and attainments of them and their children. How many of our 90,000,000 would be here to-day if their first American ancestors had been obliged to read their way past the inspectors in the immigrant service?

Ruining the Navy.

Much will be forgiven the constructors of the new Annapolis, new in plant and curriculum and methods; but if they believe that patriotic Americans will calmly allow them to excise pie from the cadets' bill of fare they little understand the temper of the people.

On honest, nutritious, substantial pie the navy grew great and produced its heroes. A hundred years ago the Yankee seamen, mighty through their upbringing on pie, were building the reputations that inspire their successors to-day. Wherever the flag went pie went, and wherever pie went the enemies of the republic were beaten and humbled. No nation could stand against pie; no nation could overcome those stern and hardy men who had conquered pie. Pie made the navy great, just as it made New England, the happy home of its perfection, mighty.

Without pie the navy will fall into decadence, the ships will rust and the noble past will live in memory only. Rather than lose pie we should abolish the navy; for what is a navy worth without proper pie eating heroes to man it?

Mr. Roddenbery Warned.

It is with reluctance that any one familiar with the raising of the Hon. JAMES LE ROY DAVENPORT, the Commissioner of Pensions, in old Cheshire county, New Hampshire, will believe that he scorns a modest Congressman like the Hon. SEABORN ANDERSON RODDENBERY of Georgia. In the House on Friday Mr. RODDENBERY taxed the Commissioner with riding in a limousine, drinking champagne and dancing the "turkey trot." It may as well be admitted that a barefoot boy with face of tan whose swimming hole was the Ashuelot River would ride in a limousine if he could when he became Commissioner of Pensions, but he would as soon quaff aerated cider as champagne. At sixty-eight Mr. DAVENPORT'S indulgence in the "turkey trot" must be sparing. But a graver charge is brought against him, that of preening himself in silks and satins and gauds and snubbing plain folk afoot. According to Mr. RODDENBERY:

"If you will call at the Pension Office some day after luncheon the Commissioner will recognize you, but if you fashion your attire in the humble style of the country people and see Mr. DAVENPORT riding along in his limousine, with a plug hat as high as a churn and a long tailed coat which puts the plumage of the peatowl to shame and shirt studs that sparkle like the eyes of a toad, the Commissioner will know you not."

Can this be a true picture of the Commissioner on his travels? How his old friends in Swanzey would like to see him spreading his coattails and flashing his pearls. Never would he hear the last of it in the home of "JOSH WHITCOMB," where he is known to the smallest one gallused urchin. He "clerked it" in Keene for four years. Would he dare to stand in such dazzling raiment surmounted by the plug hat "as high as a churn" for five minutes in the shadow of the soldiers' monument? Never! There must be some mistake. JOE BAILEY in his palmiest days never professed such scorn for "full dress" as the valiant RODDENBERY. On January 10 he had a tantrum in the House, provoked by seeing in his prismatic mind's eye the "high cockalorums of Washington society" wearing "swallowtail coats and white vests adorned with pearl studs." He beheld them "doing the 'turkey trot' act at a swell Washington social function." The Commissioner of Pensions could hardly wear jeans and cowhide boots. It must be that the Roddenbery imagination has transfigured the conventional dress of Pennsylvania avenue.

This is the homespun Georgian's first whole term in Congress. It is no concern of anybody's what he wears or what he rides in. But let him beware of "functions" and tailors and of garages and taxicabs. His flaming hatred of limousines, his bitter aversion to shirt studs, may serve for his novitiate and please the groundlings in the Valley of the Ocklocknee, but let him once be seen abroad in Washington in any conveyance but a "one hoss shay," let him be encountered wending his way to a reception in a "dress suit," more particularly let a constituent report him in a silk hat "as high as a churn," and he would run in the primaries like a mud turtle with the springhalt.

Chased butterflies a year.—*Headline.*

Plenty of men have chased butterflies a good deal longer than that and had the exercise for their pains.

The first baby to travel by parcel post has been safely delivered by the Government. Many a policeman carrying a foundling to Bellevue has wished for an agency to relieve him of his burden.

Awful "threats" to employ colored servants were made by the lords of purple restaurants in the last strike and the last but one, and we don't know how many other strikes of those accomplished tithe gatherers the waiters.

Why have these "threats" not been carried out? Is it because the negroes are not polyglots, or because they are too courteous in their demeanor, and as yet too modest in their notions of tips? Or is it because they are native, and therefore homely and despised products?

Or, as the descendants of slaves, have they not the prehensive and Robber Baron temperament necessary to a professor of the stand-and-wait-stand-and-deliver school?

If THOMAS LINCOLN, ABRAHAM'S father, had happened to be born abroad, and the proposed immigration test had been in force in his young manhood, he couldn't have got by the "guarded gates."

As an anthropologist he [ANDREW LANG] did more than any one to elucidate the secret of the totem.—BRANDER MATTHEWS *in the Bookman.*

Mr. LANG was an interesting if sometimes prejudiced amateur anthropologist. Apparently Mr. MATTHEWS has never heard of Dr. FRAZER'S book on "Totemism and Exogamy."

The California State Building Trades Council has reelected TVEITMOE and CLANCEY, convicted in Indianapolis of dynamite outrages, to its State board. Thus the detestation of violence in this organization finds convincing expression.

If winter gets on the ticket it will only be by petition.

The Dime of Figaro.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The barbers in this town are now expecting a 10 cent tip and look with disgust upon a nickel offered by a patron who considers 20 cents is all he can afford to pay for a shave if he is a regular customer.

There are all kinds of barbers, good, bad, indifferent, and some that are not worth a d—(dime), but they all try to work the public for 19 cents besides the regular charge of 15 cents for a shave, which drives me and many former customers to the use of the safety razor.

NEW YORK, January 20. J. R.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Rules For and Illustration Of the Right Use of "Nor" and "Or."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent W. Fraser suggests that in your editorial article "Put Them Where They Belong" the paragraph "There is no necessity or reason" should read "There is no necessity nor reason." He quotes the Century Dictionary as directing that the negative requires "nor," and asks for a good rule to follow in such cases.

Your correspondent is right in saying that there is a lack of conformity in such expressions. There is, however, a rule that is followed by careful writers of the present age. "Nor" is, strictly, the correlative of "neither." For example, "There is neither necessity nor reason," &c. Likewise, as THE SUN has it, "There is no necessity or reason" is correct because "no" doesn't require "nor" as a correlative. It is in accordance with the best present usage to employ "or" as the correlative of "no" in a single clause, because in the single clause "no" carries its negative force over to the second expression, and the use of "nor" would convey a taint of the double negative to the sensitive ear. When, however, there are two distinct clauses "no" and "nor" are properly correlated, as "There is no necessity for this method of procedure, nor do I see the reason for it." If we inquire into the "no" or "or" we shall find that the "no" in the single clause carries its force over to the second separative "or." Thus, "There is no necessity, or reason, or," &c., as many times repeated as you will, the original negative separating all the other alternatives by "or," which takes up each in turn, and throws them all back to the basic "no." When, however, we have two distinct clauses (virtually sentences) the first "no" lasts to the end of the clause at which the sense ends, then, in order to continue the negative idea to the second clause, we begin with a "nor" and follow the various subdivisions in that clause by an "or," as a separative, as indicated above.

Your correspondent's question is quite reasonable. In the sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries there would have been no question about the correctness of "nor" in such sentences as "There is no necessity nor reason." That was the usage. To-day the custom among careful writers is as mentioned above. There is no reason for it, perhaps, except as already given, nor is there apparently a particular necessity, but such is the best usage to-day, beyond doubt.

Professor A. S. Hill quotes the following example as illustrating the point in question:

"Neither Bonaparte nor his officers knew, or could know, the facts as we know them to-day."

This was objected to by the proofreader on the ground that "or" before "could know" should be "nor."

It may interest W. Fraser and other correspondents to determine whether or not the proofreader was correct.

G. P. COLEMAN.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., January 25.

Books for Army Posts.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Soldiers Aid and Library Association respectfully appeals to the public for miscellaneous bound books, magazines and periodicals for the use and benefit of our 80,000 United States troops. Reading matter is very highly prized at all army barracks, guard rooms and hospitals as a relief from ennui, and is especially valued in the long winter evenings.

The association has distributed in the past year over five thousand volumes of books of history, science, travel, biography, fiction, &c., and over forty-five thousand magazines and illustrated periodicals.

We will now undertake to receive, assort and send to destination, free of charge, such matter as may be offered, and persons interested will please address us at 23 Park row, New York, for further information.

Major JOHN B. KETCHUM,
Corresponding Secretary.

NEW YORK, January 25.

Weary of "Investigation."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When is the "investigation age" to come to an end? The answer would be welcome to business men throughout the country.

If all the newspapers of the country banded together to take a public vote on this question, "Shall investigations cease?" at least 99 per cent. of the business men of the country would vote "Yes." DISGUSTED.

BROOKLYN, January 25.

Stenography and Typewriting.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent "Scriptor" complains of the spelling of stenographers. If this gentleman would drop into the vernacular and use concise, business English he would find plenty of bright girls who would suit his requirements and consider themselves well paid if they got ten or twelve dollars a week.

"Scriptor" refers to stenography and typewriting as an "occupation which seems to require no other preliminary training than an easily acquired mechanical facility." It is well he used the word "seems." Any one who has studied stenography and typewriting, more particularly the former, knows that it is anything but easily acquired. H.

NEW YORK, January 26.

A Sweeping Indictment of Stenographers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Scriptor" does not go far enough. What he says as to "the average public stenographer" can be extended to every branch of this kind of work. The incompetence of stenographers is far beyond the average.

Ignorant and indifferent employers are largely responsible for the depletion of domestic service. As long as young women with no intellectual equipment can easily command from $8 to $10 a week as stenographers and typewriters in offices they will never enter domestic service. They regard it as wholly menial. The certainty of a good home and high wages is no consideration. As stenographers they are miserable failures; as houseworkers they could become proficient in most cases and thus contribute to the comfort and welfare of their employers and themselves.

But there are in this city not a few educated, skilful stenographers. For the most part, however, the incompetents are in a great majority—young men and young women foisted upon the business world and, strange to say, maintained there in preference to those whose ability should make the employment of others impossible. The employers are to be blamed. In many cases the mental calibre of employer and employee is the same. SHORTHAND.

NEW YORK, January 25.

Betting and Other Gambling.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Legislature of 1910 passed a law that the owners or directors of a racecourse should be arrested, fined and imprisoned if a bet was made on the grounds of the same.

The other night the police raided an apartment house on a charge of gambling within the premises.

Now is not the owner of that apartment house also liable to arrest, fine and imprisonment? If not, why not? It is a parallel case. Of course no one believes the owner had any knowledge of the gambling, nor could a racecourse owner know of every bet that is made. But there is the absurdity of it, punishing a man for something of which he is ignorant. W. S.

YONKERS, January 26.

A Blessed Region of Manhattan.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Where we did live, in Harlem, there were cats without number; but where we live now, far up on Washington Heights, in the Fort George region, there are very few. Even now this section of Manhattan is but partly built up and I suppose that accounts for it, the cats have fewer opportunities for foraging; but certainly we have here few cats.

NEW YORK, January 26. FOUR GEORGE.

The New Idea.

Said the author, "My heroine you will see
In Act 1 is dark and stout,
She has a snub nose—very odd, you'll agree,
But I know what I'm about,
For in Act 2 she is svelte and quite blonde,
And her nose has a Grecian twist,
For to-day we must recognize the work
Of the beauty specialist."

LA TOUCHE HANCOCK.

RESTRICTING IMMIGRATION.

A Qualifying Test Called For That Will Keep Out the "Lower Classes."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If this country needs "the strong unlettered folk," then our plan of educating the masses is a failure. If we need the ignorant, why not raise them ourselves? Personally I am one of those narrow, bigoted, provincial people who believe in restricting immigration. I have no doubt that any plan will work some injustice, but the present lack of system works a hardship upon a large number of Americans. And if the truth were known and we got down out of the clouds, we should understand that a great injustice is done many immigrants in permitting them to come here.

Weren't my people immigrants? Certainly they were, and they came when it meant hardship instead of luxury to come too. They didn't come because the steamship agents told them of ledges of gold cropping out on Broadway. Most of them killed themselves at the early age of 75 or 80 with hard work. Anyway, like a great many other of the 19 per cent. of Americans in New York city, I'm for some sort of test for immigrants which will keep out the lower classes. If they are such good workers I think it is a shame to take them away from their own countries, and I admit that most of them will work hard. They work so hard and live on such a narrow margin that in some parts of the West, where I came from, they have driven the native stock into the cities and into Canada. The farmer who does not belong to a union finds himself unable to regulate the hours of work in his industry, and can't compete with the immigrant and maintain the American standard of living.

BROOKLYN, January 25. F. L. ORTON.

THE MOTOR COAL WAGON.

To One Man It Seems the Most Remarkable of Modern Vehicles.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* To me the most remarkable of vehicles is the automobile coal wagon. One doesn't have to be as old as Methuselah to remember when coal was carted through the streets in one ton two wheeled carts drawn by a horse. The coal was dumped on the sidewalk and then, in many places, lugged into the house, backload by backload, in a basket.

Then we got the chute discharging wagon on four wheels and with a body that could be cranked up into the air on a supporting frame, while the coal could be discharged from the tail of the wagon into a coal hole and often direct into cellars by gravity down a telescopic chute. This was a fine invention and people talked about it for years, it tickled them so. Many of those chute discharging wagons were of larger size; and then coal wagons grew bigger still and we came to have big, side discharging wagons that could stand ranged along the curb, not obstructing the street. But now? Now we have coal wagons with all these improvements and bigger than ever, and—motor driven! They are nothing less than a wonder.

You see automobile coal wagons that carry ten tons, a small carload in one wagon; and plenty of coal wagons motor driven carrying three, four, five, six tons, humping right along at two or three times the speed of the old time horse drawn wagons. To me the mark of modern progress is found in the motor driven coal wagon. C. N. G.

NEW YORK, January 26.

Aphasia.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have noted recently an account of several casualties similar to that of the lamented Judge Reynolds of Brooklyn, mishaps which I venture to suggest were occasioned by an attack of a mild form of aphasia, during which, as in this latter instance, a misapplied step, due to a momentary forgetfulness, is apt to result in accident. Elderly persons in particular should not hesitate to avail themselves of the support and guidance of the hand rail in ascending or descending a stairway, and especially in public places like the entrances and exits of the subway, the elevated roads, &c.

Where hand rails do not now exist in these public places they should be provided. They will, too, prove especially serviceable to women and children.

JOHN Y. CULYER.

BROOKLYN, January 26.

The Poultry Page of "The Sunday Sun."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is with great pleasure that I write to you to express my appreciation for the page on poultry which comes out with every Sunday edition. Many people look forward to this page in your paper and I may say that it is the first page I read. I think you are deserving of great credit for introducing this subject of poultry in THE SUNDAY SUN, as it is a topic dear to the hearts of many millions. GEORGE L. ROCKWELL.

RIDGEFIELD, Conn., January 25.

Friendly Sons of Izaak.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The other day I took a trip to the Banks in one of the fishing steamers. We had a pretty good day, quite a lot of blackfish being caught, also cunners and a few ling and codfish. A man who fished next to me thought he had caught his line on the bottom. He kept pulling away, and finally hauled in an ugly angler, his big mouth gaping like a goatsucker's. That is the beauty of fishing at the Banks—you never know what you are going to pull up.

On the way home some of the men gathered in the small cabin forward. Their conversation and intercourse were every bit as friendly and kindly as ever Izaak Walton engaged in with his disciples. They discussed fishing, bait, tackle, the habits of fish, big hauls. They exchanged delightful confidences as to one another's businesses, they joked and laughed, and finally one man sang one or two capital songs for the entertainment of his fellow anglers.

The best part of it was that the men were of various stations in life, some evidently well to do, and others just as evidently in the poorer walks of life. There was, notwithstanding, the most delightful spirit of camaraderie, with not the slightest trace of snobbishness. One of the fishermen, who was called "doctor" by some of the men and who seemed from his manner and conversation to be a man of considerable standing in life, went outside for a minute, and when he returned found his seat occupied by a poor looking man, who offered to rise. "Keep your seat," said the doctor. "You fellows are as good as I."

That is the true spirit of Izaak Walton. Long may the gentle art of angling live, for its devotees are nature's true gentlemen. H.

NEW YORK, January 25.

An Old Turkish Declaration of War.

From the London Chronicle.

The *Corriere della Sera* reproduces the text of a document preserved in the state archives at Vienna which reads strangely now, the declaration of war sent by Sultan Mehemet IV. to the Emperor Leopold in 1682. "Be it known to you, the successor of the Cæsars, to the King of Poland and to your allies, that Mehemet, the glorious and omnipotent Emperor of the East and the West * * * is about to invade your paltry territories. We shall bring 1,300,000 soldiers, on horse and foot, to crush you utterly and lay waste all your domains. We command you to await our coming in your residence in Vienna, where it is our intention to have you beheaded." The rest of the missive is devoted to a tirade against John Sobieski, who is promised a lingering death, preceded by elaborate and horrible tortures.

Magazine Machination.

In his chamber sat a poet,
Writing many a mystic line,
"They'll accept them, yes, I know it,
For I've got the game down fine!
They will never understand them."
Then he laughed, "No more do I,
But I know that I shall 'land' them
In the coming by and by."

In his chamber sits the poet
With a smile absurdly grim,
See the table! Checks o'erflow it,
Editors have sent them him.
For a while no word he utters,
Fullest hearts the slowest speak,
But at length he slyly mutters,
"I'm astonished at my cheek!"

LA TOUCHE HANCOCK.

INSOMNIA.

A Simple, Agreeable and Leisurely Remedy for "White Nights."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I would recommend a very simple remedy suggested to me by a patient who was recovering from typhoid fever, and whose physician had recommended it to her, i. e., as many glasses of hot (not boiled) milk as he can consume with comfort immediately before going to bed, taking the milk in leisurely fashion, not bolting it.

I had been since infancy practically a victim of the same trouble, and I decided to try this "cure." As nearly as I remember I continued the treatment without intermission for nearly three months, when one morning I waked up to find the lights still burning, the book I was loafing over while I was sipping a quart of hot milk open on my lap, and the experience of a brand new sensation.

I continued the practice for months and found that a combination of malted milk dissolved in the hot milk, with a little salt for seasoning, was even a pleasanter diet with equally satisfactory results.

I most cordially wish that "Sufferer" would try it and not get discouraged if results are or appear to be late in arriving. They stay when they do arrive. M. M. W.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., January 25.

O, Thou My Muse, Guid Auld Scotch Ale!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The sufferer from insomnia whose plaint appeared in your columns recently deserves sympathy and help. I can give him both. Let him follow my example. I am 80 years old. I do nine hours hard work every day of my life, eat well and sleep well. Let him eat a fairly light dinner about 6 P. M., and when he retires to the silence of his chamber take with him a pint of Scotch ale—porter or beer won't do—and the day's SUN, which I myself have read every night for forty years, absorb the foaming dose, get into bed, take with him THE SUN, with his mind at ease and in proper frame to enjoy the enjoyment of enjoyments he will find in the columns of that paper, that is, if the ale will allow him to stay awake long enough for that purpose, and I will guarantee that he will have no further complaint of insomnia. If he does I'll pay for his ale and his SUN too.

GEORGE H. LLOYD.

BOSTON, January 25.

OLD FAVORITES.

Gus Williams in "One of the Finest," John E. Owens and Others.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* How many old New Yorkers will recall "Gus" Williams in "One of the Finest"? I saw him at the old Mount Morris Theatre in the early '80s. He was a great favorite. I recall only one verse of a song that he sang in that play:

I'm one of the finest, one of the grandest,
One of the bravest police in the world,
Always courageous, never outrageous,
One of the finest police in the world.

John F. Owens, that sterling old actor, made a big hit in "Solon Shingle." He was far superior to Denman Thompson.

How many of your readers have seen Weber and Fields when they used to do a little fifteen minute burlesque sketch at the London Theatre in the Bowery about 1887 or 1888? I remember they played a burlesque game of pool and one of them would read a love (?) letter written in German dialect, while the other one would correct him. All I can recall now is that he would read the date something like this: "Octember der einst."

Haverley's Minstrels also made a big hit. I recall part of a song that was popular, called "I Had But Fifty Cents":

I took my girl to a fancy ball,
It was a social hop,
We stayed until the lights went out
And the music it did stop.

Then to a restaurant we went,
The best one in the street,
She said she wasn't hungry
But this is what she eat:

A dozen raw, a plate of slaw,
A chicken and a roast,
Some apple sass, a plate of hash,
And soft shell crabs on toast;

A big box stew, with crackers too,
Her appetite was immense,
When she called for pie I thought I'd die,
For I had but fifty cents.

NEW YORK, January 26. W. M. S.

Dangers of Ocean Parkway.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I live near Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, and have seen many narrow escapes of pedestrians from passing automobiles. Recently the Kensington and Parkville League held a meeting and inaugurated a movement for the establishment of "islands of safety" in the middle of the parkway at the principal avenue crossings as a protection to pedestrians, especially children and elderly people.

Ocean Parkway is one of the widest avenues in the borough and is used more by autos and other vehicles than any other thoroughfare. Accidents to children and elderly people especially are of frequent occurrence. The danger is great at all times and especially so on Sundays, when the auto traffic is greatest and when a great number of children have to cross the parkway to get to church or to Sunday school. There are half a dozen churches along the boulevard in the Parkville section alone, all of which have Sunday schools and all of which perceive the necessity of providing some sort of protection to the children crossing the parkway. On week days the danger is very great because there are two schools on the parkway, so that hundreds of children have to endanger their lives several times a day going to and from school.

The "islands of safety" will serve effectively to divide the traffic in different directions, and will provide resting places so that pedestrians will have to concern themselves only with the traffic in one direction at a time.

The residents of this section of Brooklyn have been after the city for some time to remedy existing conditions, and it is about time something was done for the safety of the public.

BROOKLYN, January 25. RESIDENT.

Abdul Hamid's New Prison.

From the Westminster Gazette.

The Beylerbey Palace at Constantinople, to which the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid has been removed from Salonica, is generally regarded as the most successful architectural achievement of modern times in Turkey. It was built by Abdul Aziz in 1866, and is of white marble throughout, and essentially Oriental in every respect. During his reign Abdul Hamid never resided at the Beylerbey Palace, perhaps because of its association with the tragic death of his uncle Aziz, but foreign sovereigns visiting Constantinople were always entertained there. The artistic loveliness of the palace delighted the Empress Eugénie on the occasion of her visit in 1869, though the rooms set apart for her use were furnished to exactly resemble her suite of apartments in the Tuileries.

My Lady Votes.

Lords of the polling place
Put on, put on your coats!
The weed's vile stain erase
She votes!
My lady votes!
Votes!

Leave no corrupting trace
Of grafter's checks or notes!
Let virtue rule apace—
She votes—
My lady votes!
Votes!

Let no sustaining "brace"
Glide down your dusty throats!
Forego such dire disgrace!
She votes!
My lady votes!
Votes!

See that no hoodlum base
Annoys, or rudely gloats
On that patrician face!
She votes!
My lady votes!
Votes!

Let blameless sheep replace
Disreputable goats!
In lavender and lace,
She votes!
My lady votes!
Votes!

CORINNE ROCKWELL SWAIN.

TWO MORE EXPERTS RAP SCHOOL SYSTEM

Professors Elliott and Hanus Would Abolish Board of Superintendents.

MAXWELL IS PRAISED

New Blood Needed Among Teachers and Supervisors, Report Says.

The report on the general supervision and the Board of Examiners of the school system of this city, embodying the result of a special inquiry made by Prof. Edward C. Elliott of the University of Wisconsin, known as an expert on schools, was made public yesterday.

Prof. Elliott and Prof. Paul H. Hanus of Harvard made the investigation on behalf of the committee on school inquiry of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. Their investigation has been the cause of some bitter feeling among school officials.

This was made plain on Saturday, when speaking before the Twentieth Century Club Prof. Hanus criticised Dr. William H. Allen, head of the Bureau of Municipal Research, for placing obstacles in the way of the inquiry.

"A great many obstacles were put in the way of the inquiry as soon as it was learned that I would not be used to furnish material for a publicity campaign but insisted upon a disinterested investigation," he said.

The report makes up a bulky volume of 144 pages with charts inserted. Although severe in regard to the Board of Superintendents, which he says should be abolished, Prof. Elliott has nothing but praise for Superintendent Maxwell. The report says on this point:

The city superintendent has achieved distinguished success in protecting the school system and the teaching staff from the selfish influences that are always found in the public service of a great city, and this is conspicuous service.

He has succeeded in unifying the school system and harmonizing the educational forces of this city. He has made the New York public school system one of nation-wide significance.

But Dr. Elliott's report is by no means couched in kind words throughout. A few pages further on he says:

The attitude of the City Superintendent and the associate superintendents, acting either in an individual official capacity or collectively as the board of superintendents, toward the members of the teaching and supervisory staff has prevented the development of a necessary spirit of co-operation within the school organization.

All the evidence considered emphasized the fact that there seems to be nowhere within the school system a clear and conspicuous discrimination between those activities of control that are administrative in character and those that are supervisory or inspectory. The absence of this distinction has been an important factor in retarding the progress and complicating the development of the school system.

The Wisconsin professor found that three-fourths of the elementary school principals appointed in recent years received all their education in the public schools here. Of this the report said:

Admitting that the system of selection of principals now controlled by the Board of Examiners results in the appointment of the most capable of those presenting themselves as candidates, the marked tendency of this system toward inbreeding should not be permitted to continue unheeded.

Every school system requires for its progressive development the infusion of new blood—both teachers and supervisers whose attitudes and standards of value have not become conventionalized and whose influence therefore counteracts the narrowness and provincialism which are inevitable characteristics of the highly organized life of a great city.

New York city has become a great centre of industrial, commercial, civic, intellectual and artistic activity; hence it offers unusual opportunities for persons of ability, ambition and energy. If New York is to maintain a public school system equal to the tremendous task imposed upon it, some way must be found to attract to its educational service men and women of mark from outside.

Prof. Elliott thinks that the principals are appointed at too advanced an age to be of the highest efficiency. He says that the system of rating the efficiency of principals is not such as to distinguish the competent from the incompetent. Nor does he think the means and methods for the annual ratings of teachers and principals are such as to raise the level of teaching within the schools. He says that the unwillingness of many teachers and superintendents to provide him with information argues a lack of progressiveness on their part. The report says:

The schools have lacked an audit that would exhibit how well that which is being attempted is being done; an audit that would reveal the degree to which the machinery of organization is adapted to its purpose; an audit that would display the essential facts of census, attendance and rate of progress of pupils, the accomplishments of teachers and an analysis of the real cost in many of the activities that enter into school education. The more important of these facts New York city does not know to-day.

There is a striking lack of consciousness within the school system of the radical difference between merely keeping the schools in operation and keeping the schools in operation so as to produce tangible results of high quality. The organization of the school has been from the top down rather than from the bottom up, a procedure as obstructive to progress and real growth as it is in any other human institution.

Here are his recommendations for the reorganization of the supervisory staff.

First he would abolish the board of superintendents and the position of associate superintendent. In their place he would have a supervisory council, to be composed of the city superintendent, all of the district superintendents and a selected number of directors, principals of training schools, high schools and elementary schools.

Representatives from the teaching staff in the various types and grades of schools should have general powers and directions with regard to programmes of study and all other matters relating to the methods and standards of instruction. He says that until such a representative board is charged with educational responsibility, the city cannot hope to secure the most efficient service.

He would also establish a board of division of investigation and appraisal to serve as the central agent for the gathering of school statistics and the conduct of investigation.

Finally he would reorganize the board of examiners so as to provide for nine members including the city superintendent of schools.