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The Subway Grab.

There is only one subway grab in sight, to the best of our knowledge and belief. It is just as well to brush away the disguising features and exhibit that infamous grab to the indignant people of New York for what it really is.

The future of the supremacy of our metropolis, its real estate values, the convenience and comfort of its citizens, a hundred and one other considerations, even to the ordinary decencies of personal physical contact, are involved in the great problem of rapid transit extension with which the Public Service Commissioners, in cooperation with the Mayor and city authorities, have been dealing for many months. The honesty of their efforts to perform for New York this vast and indispensable service has long been apparent to every unbiassed mind. Equally apparent and much more wonderful has been the success of their treatment of the almost infinitely complex questions affecting the solution: the topographical and engineering difficulties of the situation; the reconcilement of the conflicting interests of the already chartered carriers; the practical financiering of one of the most stupendous of enterprises of construction and operation; the legal obstacles to this, that and the other method of adjustment and coordination. The dual project has been accepted and approved by public opinion. The details of it have been worked out to the best possible advantage of all localities and all interests concerned. The process of harmonizing the rivalries of the existing concerns has been accomplished with rare skill and even rarer impartiality by the commission; it has cajoled a concession here, it has compelled a compromise there, and it has shaped the scheme, after many months of patient and able effort, into coherence and practicability; with daylight arrangements, on prompt and reasonable terms, for the provision of the funds which the city itself is unable to furnish. New York believed itself upon the eve of the consummation of that which it has so desperately needed and must have or go into atrophy.

Then suddenly on this eve of the completion of the work which had scarcely till then found an open mouthed critic, when the contracts were about ready for signature, the real subway grabbers appeared.

Who are they? The concerted raid on New York's rapid transit plan was timed exactly to serve the purposes of personal and political ambitions in the approaching municipal campaign and election. The raid first took the form of a personal attack upon Chairman WILLCOX, in the hope of discrediting that faithful, honest and intelligent servant of New York's interests, preventing his reappointment at the expiration of his term next Friday midnight, and supplanting him with some person amenable to influences behind the concerted movement.

When it seemed likely that this special line of enterprise would not avail for the destruction of that which Chairman WILLCOX has accomplished and represents, that he would be at least able to complete the contracts before his successor was appointed, even if after February 1, the small but vociferous band of subway grabbers turned their activities in another direction. They began an equally concerted general attack on the merits of the plan itself. Their chief platform speaker and their two newspaper organs assailed the scheme, so patiently and honorably and openly developed during months of preparation, as if it were an entirely novel proposal of greed and graft. With all the arts of inflammatory rhetoric and all the typographical expedients known to the professional purveyors of sensation and provokers of public suspicion they sought to persuade the people that they were being cheated. As fast as one misrepresentation of theirs was nailed they have produced another. And, coincidently with the concerted attempt to create a factitious public opinion hostile to the only available plan of relief for New York's dire needs in the way of intercommunication, they are using every means, before and behind the scenery, to coax or bully or intimidate Governor SULZER into lending his hand to block rapid transit in his own city, to throw back into chaos the prospects of relief, and, incidentally, to kill himself politically.

Who are they? The answer is easy enough. They are the men who want to wrest the subway project from its proper place in the business administration of a great city's affairs and to put it into politics in the coming municipal campaign as the instrument of their factional or private purposes. Ten thousand words on this aspect of the case could not add to the force of that perfectly obvious proposition. They are ready, if they can scare the Governor into helping them, to wreck the great benefit now almost an actuality for this town, and under pretence of an altruistic campaign for full municipal construction and operation—on the plan of the Staten Island ferry!—postpone the day of New York's relief even to the Greek kalends; for it will be years and years before the debt limit enables the city to do the job itself.

This is the only subway grab in sight. We much mistake the temperature of prevailing public sentiment in Greater New York if its respectable and long suffering citizens are not fast getting into the mood to seize these sinister sensationalists and interested politicians and half cracked municipal ownership theorists by the napes of their necks and shake them till their teeth rattle and fall out.

The Woman Suffrage Amendment.

What is the public feeling as to the proposed woman suffrage amendment to the Constitution, passed by both branches of the New York State Legislature and yet to be passed by the Legislature of 1915, in the fall of which year it will be submitted to the people? Even yet, in spite of the triumphs of the woman suffragists in the West last year, in spite of the more or less striking recent advertisements of the movement, in spite of the industry and ingenuity of its advocates and an amiable attitude on the part of bearers and readers, can anybody tell how much impression has been made upon the great mass of hitherto opposing, lukewarm or indifferent folks, women and men? We don't mean the politicians, but the "silent" obscure majority.

In a little more than two years the people will have to decide. It is no longer, at least in New York, a question of equal rights. Woman suffrage will give to women of New York, in a sense, more than equal rights and less than equal burdens. Woman suffrage is now to be considered not mainly in its effect upon the status of woman, but in its benefit or detriment to the State. The arguments so far as they are not a priori will have to be drawn largely, we should suppose, from the experience of States where woman suffrage exists.

Possibly there will be a tremendous quickening of public sentiment before 1915. Speaking impartially, we hope and believe, and without speculation or prejudice upon the desirability or probable effect of woman suffrage in this State, we merely wonder how far its people have made up their minds.

The Disqualification of an Olympic Champion.

The story of JAMES THORPE, the Sac and Fox Indian student of the Carlisle School, that he played baseball for money in the Eastern North Carolina League in the summer vacations of 1909 and 1910, will make an unpleasant sensation in amateur athletic circles in this country, in Europe, and in the British possessions everywhere. THORPE was the greatest "all round athlete" who appeared in the Olympic games at Stockholm last July, and his fame spread to every part of the world reached by the cable. Some of our British cousins who are more caustic than kind will regard the disclosure as a scandal that tarnishes the brilliant triumph of America at Stockholm.

It is true that the admission made by THORPE formally put the American Olympic committee on the defensive, but it will be able, we believe, to satisfy the Swedish authorities who had charge of the games that it had no knowledge of THORPE'S disqualification. Responsibility for the unpleasant incident is acknowledged in the apology and explanation already drawn up to be sent to the Swedish Olympic committee, and through the international committee to the nations of the world whose athletes competed at Stockholm. As is pointed out in this statement, "THORPE'S act of professionalism was in a sport over which the Amateur Athletic Union has no direct control," and the games of the baseball league in which he played two and three years before he competed at Stockholm were not reported "in the more important papers of the country." It might be added that this Indian student was not famous as an athlete in 1909 and 1910, and the officers of the union could not be expected to follow his movements. It is always difficult to detect professionalism in summer baseball playing by college students, and in the case of the Indians entered at Carlisle well nigh impossible.

In the British dominions and on the Continent it will be maintained that the American Olympic committee ought to have known that so mighty an athlete as JAMES THORPE proved himself to be at Stockholm was not in good amateur standing. This view of the case may be the popular one, but the English authorities have had their own troubles with amateurs who turned out to be professionals according to the letter of the law. The official view will doubtless find extenuation in the circumstances of the acceptance of THORPE by the American Olympic committee. It must be remembered that in his application for registration in the Amateur Athletic Union in the fall of 1911 he represented himself as an amateur, answering the printed questions put to him. That was the record which seemed to justify his acceptance as a competitor in the Olympic games. THORPE stripped of his honors won at Stockholm and restoring the trophies is not really a pathetic figure, because if he was ignorant of violating the amateur law when he played baseball for money in North Carolina he was sophisticated enough when he joined the Amateur Athletic Union to win a place for himself in the ranks of the American competitors at the Olympic games.

The disclosure is humbling, for Americans were proud of the victories of their athletes at Stockholm, which were supposed to have been as cleanly won as they were decisive of superiority. Fortunately the deduction of points scored by JAMES THORPE which must now be made will still leave the United States easily first in the track and field events. It is some consolation to know that the amende honorable is to be made unequivocally and promptly.

Wool.

Whether Mr. BRYAN is or is not to be an ornament of the next Administration, he has no influence with the Democrats of the Ways and Means Committee. The voice of that experienced apostle of trouble was and is for free raw materials, a doctrine whose relation to a tariff for revenue is not always apparent. Mr. BRYAN groaned and wept over Mr. UNDERWOOD'S desertion to "the protected interests," Bryanese for a wool revision bill which left an average duty of 20 per cent. on wool and 33 per cent. or thereabouts on wool manufactures. Mr. UNDERWOOD and his associates were equally unmoved by the Bryan cry of free wool and the pleas of the heaven high protectionists who look on Schedule K as the ark of the covenant. The Democrats are committed to "material reductions" to "be speedily made upon the necessities of life." They are also committed, though Mr. BRYAN seemed to forget it last year and the year before, to a careful and conservative revision of the tariff. The Democratic platform of 1912 said what it may be worth while for the general run of citizens to read again if any of them are worrying about what the Sixty-third Congress will do to the tariff:

"We recognize that our system of tariff taxation is intimately connected with the business of the country and we favor the ultimate attainment of the principles we advocate by legislation that will not injure or destroy legitimate industry."

The Democrats promised to revise; they promised not to injure or destroy. A decent regard for their own interests as citizens eager for prosperity and as Democrats eager for continuing Democratic success will make them keep their word. If the Democrats will only be as conservative about some other matters as they are in a way to be about that!

An Efficiency Verdict.

The members of the Efficiency Society, having gathered at half past 7 o'clock to eat their 6 o'clock dinner, were, with the exception of the dinner committee, naturally in a mood to examine critically the conduct of their non-efficient neighbors. The results of the survey were highly gratifying. Professor JOSEPH F. JOHNSON, dean of the New York University's School of Commerce, summarized the opinions of his fellow experts:

"By accident, this country has the worst banking system in the world.

"Our Government is the worst government in the world.

"In New York city alone methods of inefficiency cause the waste of between $200,000,000 and $300,000,000 annually.

"In what other country is the budget eliminated and neglected as it is here?

"We are the only people on the face of the earth who don't do business in a business way.

"In no other country has the Chief Executive so little power as the Chief Executive of the United States."

But why give to accident the credit for imposing on the country the worst banking system in the world? Why not let it rest where it belongs, on the shoulders of a deliberately malicious and inefficient people? It is worthy of remark also that in New York city, with its waste of between $200,000,000 and $300,000,000 a year, the budget is an institution perhaps as well known as is the Johnson School of Commerce. Nor will the declaration that "in no other country has the Chief Executive so little power as the Chief Executive of the United States" fail to revive confidence in the propaganda.

For ourselves we are irrevocably committed to government by informers, through investigators, and for after dinner orators.

It is a peculiar world.—*St. Paul Pioneer Press.*

What kind of a world do you want? A world that includes varieties so different as the Hon. MOSES EDWIN CLAPP and the Hon. JADAM BEDE has to be peculiar or shut up shop. The more peculiar the better; a fine old planet, an amusing little oblate spheroid. Long may it wave; we doubt if even Colonel R—S—T could make a better one offhand.

The Pink Aurora Borealis, Colonel JIM HAM LEWIS, continues to maintain his Sublime Port, but seems no nearer the United States Senate than he was a month ago. Why is Illinois untrue to her chief natural beauty?

Professors KNIGHT and CROCKER of the University of Chicago declare that tobacco smoke does not benefit house plants.—*Inter-Ocean.*

It benefits at least one humble house plant, domesticated man.

Under the heading "Situations Vacant" in its advertising columns, *Votes for Women*, published in England by FREDERICK and EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE, prints the following:

"Wanted—In small Nursing Home, Lady General to assist with housework; good outings; state salary."

There is another advertisement for "working pupil (lady) for small dairy and poultry farm," and it is stipulated that she must be "a good milker." In the title of their proselyting journal the LAWRENCES still retain the grand old name of woman, but the dignity and respectability of labor require that it shall be dropped in the case of maids of all work, milkmaids and the serving and wage earning class generally. There is evidently method in the refinement. Votes for women are also votes for ladies.

If you are a shopkeeper you had better look out. It is not just your windows which are going to be attacked. It is something else.—ANNIE KENNY, *a London Suffragette.*

It is the piquant charm of the British militants that the mystery of their threats to do "something awful" keeps tyrant man in a constant state of suspense.

Is it worth while to dwell again for a moment on Mr. WILSON'S supposition, worthy, if great things may be compared with small, of the most imaginative theories of the magazine "publicists" from the time of the "Treason of the Senate" to the latest oracle of the Hon. LINCOLN STEFFENS:

"Suppose you go to Washington and try to get at your Government. You will always find that, while you are politely listened to, the men really consulted are the men who have the biggest stake—the big bankers, the big manufacturers, the big masters of commerce, the heads of railroad corporations and of steamship corporations."

Thus the unhallowed combinations that passed the Hepburn act and the Sherman act are unmasked. Only the "big bankers" are missing. Is it due to them, does Mr. WILSON think, that Congress has refrained from reforming the currency and banking laws?

It is past belief, however, that the Senate can refuse to take cognizance of the charges that have been made against Senator WARREN.—*The Press.*

Charges that Mr. ROOSEVELT when President would not take cognizance of. After his amalgamation proposal has been condemned by the same infallible authority, Mr. MUNSEY, impatient, contumacious, sturdily perpetrates another act of lese majesty.

IMPULSIVE SILVER SPEECH.

The Inconveniences of Professorial Oratory.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A skilled public speaker would never assert positively that any particular class of citizens were engaged in nefarious practices or had been "convicted," but on the other hand would generalize and say it has been asserted that such and such evils exist, and should that prove to be the case after investigation remedies will be found that will prevent the continuance of the objectionable conditions.

Mr. Roosevelt in his wild statement made prior to the late panic relative to "malefactors of great wealth" had much to do with destroying public confidence and bringing about the conditions under which this country has suffered for the last five years. The intelligent public knew what credence to give to his statements. The great mass of the public did not. They assumed that the President of the United States knew what he was talking about and argued if the facts were as stated by him the best thing they could do was to withdraw their money from the banks and hoard it. Many of the "foreign element" concluded to leave the country and take their money with them. Very many industries suffered and an immense amount of money left the country.

What was true of Mr. Roosevelt's remarks is equally true of those made by Mr. Wilson. The unintelligent portion of the public take his remarks as true, that a money trust exists, that the bankers have been convicted, &c., with the result that again confidence is weakened, to the detriment of the country. Further, Mr. Wilson seems to labor under the delusion that he is the whole Government of the United States; that the burden rests upon him of suggesting and inciting such legislation as may be necessary to correct the evils which he assumes to exist. This savors more of imperialism than of democracy, and his peculiar views of his responsibilities can only be accounted for under the assumption that to him the general public occupies the position of a class of college students.

It is earnestly to be hoped that Mr. Wilson will heed the criticisms which have been expressed throughout the United States and adopt as his watchword the old maxim, "Silence is golden." GEORGE H. BENJAMIN.

NEW YORK, January 28.

"I Had But Fifty Cents."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In to-day's SUN "W. M. S." gives but a small parcel of the classic "I Had But Fifty Cents." May I supply the remainder? WILLIAM S. WHITEHEAD.

NEW YORK, January 27.

She said she wasn't hungry, she didn't care to eat,
But I've got money in my old clothes to bet she can't be beat.
She took it in so cosey, she had an awful tank,
She said she wasn't thirsty, but this is what she drank—
A whiskey skin, a glass of gin, made me shake with fear,
Ginger pop, rum on top, a schooner, then, of beer;
A glass of ale, a gin cocktail, she ought to had more sense,
When she called for more, I fell on the floor, for I had but fifty cents.

You bet I wasn't hungry, I didn't care to eat,
Expecting every moment to be kicked out in the street.
She said she'd bring her family round some day and we'd have fun;
When I gave the man the fifty cents, why, this is what he done:
He tore my clothes, he mashed my nose, he hit me in the jaw,
He gave me a prize, a pair of black eyes, and with me wiped the floor,
He caught me where my clothes hung loose and pitched me over the fence;
Take my advice, don't try it twice, if you have but fifty cents.

William Morris a Little Scratched.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Speaking of the old comic songs:

When you are middle aged and would recall
A song that even now your heart endears,
When modern ditties with their fripperies pall
Compared with what you heard in bygone years,
Perchance you will forget your wailing tears
And smile again as presently you say
Some idle jingle or forgotten lay.

When you're a-weary of the hunt for mirth
Through comic journals, and with doleful sigh
Feel most unkindly unto all the earth,
And grudge the pennies that they cost to buy,
These "weakly comics" lingering like to die,
Remember then a little while, I pray,
The clever singers of a former day.

NEW YORK, January 28. OLDBUCK.

"Little Mac's" Name and Specialty.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* THE SUN of January 28 has an article in reference to "Little Mac," a dear old friend of mine. His name was not "Johnny Mac," but Ebenezer Nicholson. He played with Bryant's Minstrels under the name of "Little Mac." His great act was a man monkey.

CHARLES H. PARKINSON.

NEW YORK, January 28.

Plays of the '80s.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* What has become of such good plays as "Romany Rye," Herne's "Hearts of Oak" and the good old pantomime, that were played in the early '80s?

GEORGE C. TILLOU.

HYDE PARK, January 28.

The Sign.

The Violet—Coming out too?

The Rubber Plant—Not on your life; wait till the folks in the flat get that tired feeling.

PIE FOR MIDDIES.

An Old Annapolitan Recalls a Glorious Custom and Ritual.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The editorial article in this morning's SUN "Ruining the Navy" takes me back to those carefree days of twenty years ago when I was one of the four hundred or so cadets at the Naval Academy and enjoyed the pie which is now to be banished from its weekly bill of fare.

I can see the long blue line standing at attention before the old main quarters, now replaced by the magnificent structures that grace the banks of the Severn. Now comes the sharp word of command: "Two's right! Forward at ease, march!" and the four hundred healthy boys file nimbly up the steps and into the mess hall. Down the long aisles to their appointed places, the silence broken only by the shuffling of many feet upon the floor. Now they are standing erect behind the chairs.

"Seats!" from the cadet commander at his place at the staff table with the other high cadet officers and the young lieutenant in charge.

Each man stoops to put his cap on the crossed wires under his chair and then comes the rattle of dishes, the bustling of mess attendants and the deafening roar of conversation, the absence of which when the "silence" is given to an unpopular officer is an awful thing to one who has ever been a part of the happy band.

Twenty-two men at each of the long tables, ten plebes to a table, five on a side, well down the middle. Each of these, following the unwritten regulations that have come down from the earliest days, sits erect, in silence, his back unsupported by the chair. Not until June can he lean back and talk like any other upper class man. The latter, having gone through the same experiences the year before, now takes up the daily course in etiquette with the plebes.

"What's the dessert to-day, mister?" comes the question to a fair haired "plebe" from an upper class man who will probably grasp the latter by the hand in June and more than likely become one of his lifelong friends.

Still flustered from his hurried trip to the forbidden precincts of the kitchen just before formation, the fair haired one whispers "Pie, sir."

"Pie! Give the Spanish name for it!"

"I don't know, sir."

"Don't know!" the upper class man thunders; "under the table with you." And, gingerly, lest the young lieutenant see him, the luckless one slides down in his chair until with a last careful effort his flushed face disappears beneath the folds of the tablecloth.

"Feed him!" is the order to the seat mate of the luckless one—and a plate of roast beef and potatoes, the knife and the fork are placed in a hand that reaches up from below, clutches them and draws them down out of sight.

"Can you give the Spanish name?" to another of the plebes. "Pie, sir," comes the ready response.

"Won't do; surprising ignorance. Sit on infinity, mister," upon which the classmate of the outcast beneath the table takes his weight off his chair, pushes this clear from him and goes on with his meal, poised in the air and retaining his sitting posture as though the chair were still beneath him.

And so the good natured badinage goes on as the meal progresses. One man, perhaps, is asked to tell a story about his napkin ring, and a classmate is suddenly asked to take up the thread.

By and by the tables are cleared. Dessert is coming. The outcast is allowed to crawl up again. The man who has been "resting" on infinity finds his chair shoved under him. All hands are needed now.

Behold! Far down at the end of the room the mess attendants are hurrying in with large trays of crisp, freshly baked pies. "The next event," in the tones of the professional announcer, from the lips of a blue eyed third class man, now resting in a grave beside the other heroes on the hill that looks far out upon the Chesapeake, "the next event will be the pie race. Plebes on one side of the table against those on the other side. A second helping to the winners, who will be matched against the winners at the next table. Whistle when you're through!"

Ten pairs of hands at each table clutch ten of the little pies. Ten boyish heads lean close to the table waiting for the word.

"Go!" and ten mouthfuls of a size that would break the hearts of fond mothers far off somewhere if they could see them are wrenched from the pies. Now for the bites that count. Be careful or you'll break the thing in two and drop some on the floor and be disqualified, to say nothing of spoiling that blue service uniform you brushed so carefully this morning.

Lordy! The fellow across the way is nearly through. Faster, faster, make every mouthful count. Now to whistle—no, in just a minute, got to swallow a little more yet. Now! And woe betide the man who whistles too soon!

"One minute and eight seconds," cried our timer to the timer at the next table. "One minute and ten seconds" comes the answer an instant later.

"Come on, we'll race you." And away they go again. Oh, those were great days, days when those who couldn't do much on the football field or on the crew helped to swell the prowess of their classes.

During my plebe year pie eating was my long suit. Before the year was over I was smuggled around to race against the champion of nearly every table and nearly lost my place in the list of the Academy's immortals because I almost choked to death on a prune pit that had been left in one of the pies.

Save the pies and pastry to carefree boyhood. Save the cream puffs we used to receive in abundance, pierce with a knife and hurl surreptitiously at classmates at nearby tables. And how those cream puffs used to ooze out when they struck the shiny black face of one of the mess attendants! OLD TIMER.

NEW YORK, January 27.

Castro.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Federal statute cited by THE SUN in the case of Castro reads "shall," not "may," so that no discretion is left to the Government to exclude or not exclude a person convicted of crime or felony, "except purely political crimes not involving moral turpitude." The Administration seems to be proceeding upon the principle of holding a man guilty until he proves the negative. If its proceeding in Castro's case is based upon any possible American principle of law, what limit is there to it? JAMES YEARSLEY.

PHILADELPHIA, January 28.

The Buccaneers of the Barge Canal.

Kidd, chieftain of the buccaneers
'Tis so the story goes
Wore jewelled pendants in his ears
And a ruby on his nose.
He frisked along the Spanish Main,
And the mack'rel fleet to boot
Gave largess to his ill got gain—
But he didn't give a toot.

'Twas said he buried deep his gold
Along the Mohawk's shore,
Then sailed away, so I've been told
To scalp the seas once more.
For ages every farmer's son
Has hunted for that wealth;
But every derned one has been skun
While digging for his health.

Nope! Nary pot of gold was found
The dummed tale was a lie.
Yep! Many a spade has turned the ground;
I also took a shy;
And with the rest my muscles bent
To hit the pots that lay;
But none of us e'er struck a cent
That the pirates put away.

The buccaneer contractors swooped
Along the Mohawk's shore;
They skun the cream, and quickly scooped,
With their weasels brimming o'er.
By heck, but Captain Kidd was tame
Compared to this same crew,
The Barge Canal it was their game—
And they won the dern game too!

HORACE SEYMOUR KELLER.

THE HIRED GIRL.

Not an "Inferior," but Can Her Working Day Be Shortened?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* That a maid either is or may be considered always an "inferior being" I do not admit. Many maids are superior in poise and a sense of duty to those who employ them. But, having nothing in common, the business ground is the best meeting place and affords the greatest independence to both. The love one sometimes finds in a maid's selfless devotion of her life to a family is as rare as it is fine, and can show the lovableness of those loved as well as the nature that gives it. But this we cannot always get, nor do we ask for this basis in housework.

In a life that does not create ambition and promotion there is monotony. And in work that cannot be concentrated, but spreads itself over many hours and is filled with uncertain demands, there are irregularly free periods, but they are solitary, and solitude and monotony in a limited mind form a vicious circle.

Even in simple homes that could be better planned when built if people felt the demand seriously, there is small preparation for the human needs of the workers of the home. And in the absence of any kind of a place in which to receive guests, other than the kitchen, which is the workshop of the home and should be considered as such, we assume the responsibility of not giving the maid, who is human, the chance we should like ourselves. It is possible to be an outsider, yet feel "at home."

We may not always use our spare time profitably, sometimes we need to be taught how to do so, but each of us is better for some of it. It gives us a chance for variety which may hold opportunity; but the maid who begins her duties in the American home at 6:30 in the morning and finishes her dinner dishes at 10 o'clock, or later, at night has a very long day. She does not always work hard or well; and because the demand is greater than the supply, she knows, as is not the case of the factory girl, that she does not have to, which is bad for any occupation or point of view. In my experience the desire of the houseworker has been for a certain amount of daily freedom rather than higher wages, which is supposed to be their compensation. If this were given I believe wages could be lowered, more women would take up work in houses, we could insist upon a higher class of work while they were at it, and a greater enthusiasm for housework would be the result.

I have no false sentiment about the home, and I should not be sorry to see it go did I not feel that its beauty lay in its being something more than a social centre or the best and most convenient way to feed a large family. A woman should professionalize her housekeeping, and make for home a pleasant training school for daughters and sons. For in no other way can so much be taught them that will make them in turn understand cost, how to use what they buy and the proper length of time that is necessary for work that must be done. Such a leadership makes happier, better servants.

But to shorten their working day we must either make them work in shifts or cut down the working day of our business men. Either of these seems a startling change. However, it is the long business day that sets our pace and carries social life and its service the clock around. So comes the question: Can we change the lives of our servants, or is the time coming when we shall be forced to change both their lives and ours? E. M. W.

NEW YORK, January 27.

A Suggestion That Clubs for Domestic Servants Be Formed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Mrs. F." is right in asking why so much sympathy should be given to factory girls, who could so easily have comfortable homes and save money by going into domestic service.

The objections to "housework" seem to be two: first, that a girl engaged in domestic service occupies an "inferior" position socially because she does not associate on equal terms with the family of her employer, but is relegated to the kitchen, where her work lies. A girl employed in a factory is thought to be "just as good as any one," although she does not associate with the family of her employer either, and is not expected to enter his house by either the front or the back door. These absurd distinctions are made by the girls themselves. Any cultivated lady, such as they wish to be considered, would appreciate how much more there is of dignity and refinement in the life of a respectable home, even the kitchen end of it, than in the swarming surroundings of a factory, thrown into more or less close relations with girls of all sorts, good, bad and indifferent.

The second and more sensible objection to housework as a profession "L." expresses when she says that "a girl longs for an opportunity to see something of her kind." A maid in a family where only one or two servants are employed leads, in one way, a lonely life. Unless she happens to have relatives or friends with homes of their own she is cut off to a great extent from the companionship of other girls.

It occurs to me that possibly this objection might be lessened if some of our wealthy and philanthropic women would establish clubs to which only domestic servants should be eligible as members. Let them have attractive, pleasant rooms where by the payment of a nominal fee a girl could feel herself at home, have a place to go on her afternoon out and be sure of finding other girls engaged in the same line of work.

If by this means housework could be made more popular, so that the supply of workers would somewhere near approach the demand for them, it would be a boon to thousands of overworked housekeepers in this Land of the Free (?). L. PAGE.

NEW YORK, January 26.

Jordan Is a Hard Road to Travel.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The suffragettes who are to march to Washington under command of General Rosalie Jones have a higher, nobler and more ethical purpose than to select the most picturesque and easiest route.

General Jones obviously and rightly agrees with the high priest *Sarastro* of "The Magic Flute" that it is through trials and tribulations that love and constancy are proved; therefore, if these women are steadfast in their determination to save the world they will not listen to any such smooth tempters as THE SUN suggesting in an editorial article "The Road to Elizabeth" that they sail in palatial ferryboats across to Elizabeth. But when such temptations are put in their way—to do as men would do, ride in automobiles when on such a mission—they will cry "Excelsior!" and gallantly march on.

JAMES D. DEWELL, Jr.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., January 27.

Jackson's Two Irishmen.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Andrew Jackson had another Irishman besides Taney in his Cabinet. His name was McLane and he was Secretary of the Treasury, and his father hailed from County Monaghan. DESMOND.

NEW YORK, January 28.

Louis McLane of Delaware was also Secretary of State for a year in Jackson's Cabinet.

The Pun Deserves the Pit.

Joseph received his coat of many colors.
"Hope there is no dun to it," he muttered.

Of Terrors.

Hamfat—What is worse than stage fright?
Barnstormer—Audience fright.

In the *North American Review* for February Ching-Chun Wang describes the Chinese revolution, E. Porritt the expansion of Canada, F. Bickley Marvell's poetry and Dr. F. G. Peabody the preaching of Phillips Brooks, while Professor Münsterberg applies his psychological tests to the navy. There are articles on tariff revision, socialism, railway credit and trust regulation, with two poems and reviews of "Boris Godounoff" and the Disraeli biography.

LOW WOULD OVERSEE INTERSTATE TRADE

Tells Federation That Agent Should Be Regulated as Well as What He Does.

WOULD HELP BUSINESS

Civic Federation Hears Debate on Model Pension Law for Public Servants.

The National Civic Federation began its thirteenth annual meeting at the Hotel Astor yesterday. President Seth Low advocated an interstate trade commission to supervise business in a way similar to the regulation of transportation by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

These sentences of Mr. Low's speech were especially applauded:

It is not a question whether the States or the Union can control interstate business to the greatest advantage. The thing that experience unequivocally condemns is the attempt to control the agent by one government and the thing that the agent does by another.

Nowhere else in the world is this attempted and nowhere else in the world is private business in such chaos as here in the United States. Whatever else may be done, until the United States controls the agent that does interstate business as well as the business that he does, there is no escape from the evils to which I have referred. In my judgment the United States must control the corporations which do interstate business on a large scale, either through the grant of a Federal license to State created corporations doing interstate business, or by substituting national incorporation for State incorporation in such cases.

If then it is the desire of the American people to prevent monopoly in any line of private business, no matter what, there should be a law which will cause a loss of property to any one taking part in the monopoly.

August Belmont's report as chairman of the department on compensations for industrial accidents and their prevention was read in Mr. Belmont's absence by John B. McPherson, secretary of the New England Civic Federation.

Emerson McMillin reported on the regulation of public utilities, Alton B. Parker spoke of reform in legal procedure and William R. Willcox of welfare work. Progress on a model bill providing pensions for Federal, State and city employees was reported by F. Spencer Baldwin, George T. Morgan and Arthur Williams.

After Mr. Low went away Samuel Gompers was chairman of the meeting. John Mitchell, ex-president of the Mine Workers, was present but did not speak.

In his opening address Mr. Low said that the present method of dealing with the trust question is "merely playing with the situation." He suggested that there be a specific acknowledgement that "all restraint of competition is not necessarily restraint of trade," and favored the Federal license for State created corporations, "because that is the path of least resistance and because if it be successful it involves the least radical departure from what already exists."

To an interstate trade commission such as he thought should be established, Mr. Low would not give at first authority to fix prices. The commission would have power to decide whether or not a combination was legal under the Sherman act. He argued that if the details were criticised by the commission changes could be made to overcome the commission's objections. If the commission's O. K. was disapproved by the Government the Government could appeal.

"Practically," said Mr. Low, "a method of procedure would have been set up by which to enable business men to find out in advance what they can do in the matter of combinations or agreements among themselves without coming under the condemnation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

"If such a legal foundation were to be laid for the exercise of discretion by the interstate trade commission I believe that in a few months the business of the country would be relieved of the uncertainty that has so long prevailed and that there would be a development, under Government oversight, of very large business, in which every reasonable man in the country could take pride."

Analyzing the purposes of the Industrial Workers of the World, the Socialists and the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Low pointed out that the A. F. of L. differs from the others in that "its philosophy is entirely consistent with the present organization of industry the world over, on the basis of private ownership."

Emerson McMillin said in part:

Whatever may be the views of any individual regarding the desirability of having the State regulate the conduct of public utility enterprises, all must agree that the signs of the times point clearly in one of two directions—either to public ownership and operation or to public regulation of private ownership and operation. Competition, relied upon in the earlier days to protect supposed public interests, has failed completely.

This was in August Belmont's report:

State legislative commissions which have been at work are learning of the difficulties still in the way of passing a compulsory workmen's compensation act, except in California and Ohio, where a recent amendment to the Constitution will permit such legislation. Pennsylvania will undertake to amend its Constitution and New York has already started in that direction.

It is the preference of the National Civic Federation that, if possible, at some time compulsory workmen's compensation acts should be put on the statute books of the various States, believing that a law exclusive in its remedy and providing for automatic compensation of injured wage earners through the compulsory principle would be just both to employee and employer.

To-day's session at the Astor will begin at 10 o'clock. In the morning amendments to the Erdman railway conciliation act and a proposed model State mediation act will be considered.

In the afternoon William Jay Schieffelin will speak on "Protocol in New York Garment Trades;" V. Everit Macy on "Some Fundamentals in the Organized Labor Movement," and Ralph M. Easley on "Industrial and Civic Progress in the United States."

There also will be discussion as to whether or not minimum wage should be fixed by law.