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Japan's Attitude.

The report from Washington that the Japanese Government has complained that the California alien land tenure legislation contains a palpable discrimination against its subjects in the first section of the Webb bill is doubtless correct. That section puts all aliens eligible to citizenship on the same footing as the native born with regard to the owning of real property; while by the second section "all aliens other than those mentioned in the first section," that is to say, aliens not eligible to citizenship, are limited in their holdings of real property to their treaty rights, a provision that is qualified, however, by the permission to lease lands "for agricultural purposes for a term not exceeding three years."

It is unfortunate that this veiled language of discrimination against the Japanese appears in the Sacramento legislation, for section 2 not only affirms their treaty rights to own buildings and to lease land for residential and commercial purposes but adds to those rights, for it was not contemplated in the treaty of 1911 that they should hold lands for agricultural purposes on any terms. If the treaty be examined section by section it will be found that the general tone of it is equality of treatment with *aliens of other nations*, and, for that matter, with American citizens under the laws enacted. It is the recurrence of the idea of equal *treatment* that is presumably the basis of the Japanese Government's protest to the discrimination deducible from a comparison of sections of the Webb bill.

From one point of view it might be concluded that the Japanese Government, visibly entirely, intends to use the legislation at Sacramento as a pretext for having the question of naturalization threshed out; but there is a certain plausibility in the idea that the language of the Webb bill has compelled the Japanese Government to satisfy public sentiment at home by protesting against the plain discrimination of its terms.

A Stroll Through the Free List.

Even a tariff bill, however sterile it looks, has meat in it for the wide eyed sociological philologer. The curious reader of the free list of the tariff bill is impressed, if he was well brought up, by these two Biblical entries:

"Bibles, comprising the books of the Old or New Testament, bound or unbound."

"Manna."

But this is not the manna of Ezekiel and Numbers, whatever that was, whether an immediate creation, a lichen or a tamarisk gum. Manna, the dictionary consulter finds, is a sweetish juice, concreted or dried, of a certain ash tree of southern Europe, now cultivated for commercial purposes in Sicily only. Manna is a mild laxative ordinarily used in the compounding of a stronger. The name seems a cruel jest of the apothecaries on the children.

"Cudbear" is Greek to most of us, to the layman at any rate, named after Dr. CUTHBERT GORDON, who introduced it; a purple or violet dyeing powder made of rock lichens, brilliant but evanescent, like and unlike the Hon. J. HAM LEWIS of Chicago and Washington. "Divi-divi" is the mercantile pseudonym of certain tropical American pods, curled like HUGHES'S locks, rich in tannic and gallic acids, a boon to dyers and tanners. "Dragon's blood" is a rosin from a Malay rattan palm. It colors plasters and tooth powders in the art medical, stains marble, colors varnish in the fine arts. The *name reveals an* old superstition as to its origin. "Annatto," spelled in half a dozen other ways, if you prefer, is a dye made from the seeds of a little West Indian tree of that name; tinges silk, cotton, wool and deepens yellow; serves, alas! "as a coloring ingredient for butter, cheese and chocolate." Favorably mentioned and synonymous with it on the free list are "roucou" and "rocoa," words that sound like the broken sighing of the dove.

"Coir," which rhymes with "tire," has a sea smell, cocoanut husk fibre made into coarse yarn for ropes and matting. Recommended by the dictionary as "in some respects preferable to hemp for marine uses," being buoyant, elastic, stronger for a salt water bath. "Myrobolan," which looks like a misspelling of one of Mr. THACKERAY'S cooks, is "a dried drupaceous fruit," in the East an astringent, in the West a dyer's material. "Drupaceous" fruit, by the way, is the confounded pedantic botanical disguise of a stone fruit. "Salop" (or "salep") is "in Europe used especially in making a variously seasoned demulcent drink." "Demulcent drink" is good; may also be a food like sago and tapioca. "Spunk" is "punk." "Tagua nuts" are better known as "ivory nuts" or "vegetable ivory," seeds of the size of a hen's egg and consequently a hail stone, so closely resembling ivory that the wisest elephant cannot tell the difference.

Section 653 is reprinted entire for the benefit of the American Folk Lore Society and other students of counting out games:

"Wool wastes: All noils, top waste, card waste, stubbing waste, roving waste, ring waste, yarn waste, bur waste, thread waste, garnetted waste, shoddies, mungo, flocks, wool extract, carbonized wool, carbonized noils, and all other wastes not especially provided for in this section."

Turning in conclusion to sociology, it is a satisfaction that "teeth, natural or unmanufactured," will come in free, in the original package or without.

The Pillars of Society.

Not in many a year have we read a more awful and searching arraignment of our civilization than appears in the *American Agriculturist* in a summing up of the farming situation in Pennsylvania. With a fearful and trembling pen we copy this paragraph:

"We farmers want a square deal. Farmers must awaken to the fact that every means is being used to crush them and then turn around in a hypocritical way and fill the papers full of how they are going to help the farmer. The best way to help the farmer is to give him at least half a chance to help himself. Lower his taxes, crush the trusts that compel him to pay two prices for everything he buys, let the railroads and express companies charge decent rates. The railroads claim they want to help the farmer. Do they reduce rates or do they only want the farmer to raise more so they may have more to haul?"

What a dark blue coat of paint have the pillars of society put upon themselves; or is it the sullen gray hue of men-o'-war with decks stripped for action? A free reading and accurate interpretation of this indictment of humanity in brief form is this:

The farmer wants but little; he is merely asking that his taxes be removed as far as possible; he insists that he ought to pay half price on all goods that don't come off the farm, and naturally the prices of eggs, milk, butter, all farm produce must be maintained at their present just return on labor expended; it is simply the products of other people's labor that the farmer finds crushing. Incidentally the farmers hold that the railroads, express companies, parcel post, in short all common carriers, should transport farm produce at as near cost price as if the farmer were running them solely for himself. Here the farmer wants it known that he is not to be hoodwinked by so-called uplifters and other humbugs. If they really want to help the farmer, let him have a good chance at helping himself, and when he has done so they will find that there is not much left on the sideboard. When the cider gets hard again next season things may begin to look up, but we doubt it.

The Sixth Estate.

The irreverent attitude of the Industrial Workers of the World witnesses during the trial of their rioting confederates in Paterson brings up for earnest discussion the judicial value of their oaths as testimony, and for that matter also of the testimony in any court of all those witnesses who do not recognize the holiness of the Bible, upon which they are asked by the clerk of the court to lay their hands and "solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God!"

While "liberty of conscience," as independence of religious sectarianism has been termed, is absolutely essential to a free people and should be maintained at all hazards, the ends of justice are surely frustrated when the most important element of judicial proceedings, the testimony of witnesses, continues to be based upon the sanctity of the oath alone or even chiefly. Witnesses who have volunteered the candid admission that they "do not believe in the Bible," which necessarily implies that they do not believe in the God of the Bible, are very properly permitted to testify by affirmation instead of the oath. And it is entirely in harmony with the enlightened spirit of the times and the fairness of judicial procedure to admit their testimony. Nevertheless, the very foundations of justice are menaced when the statements of a witness who has "no fear of God in his heart" are adjudged as of equivalent value with the testimony of one who respects the sanctity of an oath and of the act of testifying.

Persons who are obsessed with the righteousness of their cause, as are these I. W. W. men and women, and who are so contemptuously indifferent to all social convention as to boast brazenly of their scoffing infidelity will certainly not scruple to defend their accomplices or accusers at all hazards. How absurd to accept their testimony or the corroborative testimony of others of a like mental and moral attitude! To any calmly reflecting mind this is a travesty of justice.

It is indeed singular that in the face of these obvious conditions our courts continue to follow the formula for the witness stand devised centuries ago, when agnosticism and infidelity were as rare as they are now preponderating. That a large number of witnesses do not regard the Bible as a sacred book is an incontrovertible fact. Why, then, is not every witness asked, before being directed to "put your hand upon this book," whether he recognizes the sanctity of the Bible or his responsibility to the God of the Bible? A change in the formula of the witness stand is imperative, but it is doubtful if any form of oath or affirmation can be devised to solve this serious problem.

A far more effective remedy may be found in the stringent enforcement of the statute providing punishment for perjury.

There is no crime that is more rarely found on the calendars of our criminal courts than perjury, certainly none that is so inadequately punished. Indeed when a false witness is brought to trial it is almost invariably by reason of animosity or desire for revenge on the part of the injured party. And yet there are thousands of flagrant cases; for instance, the false "declaration under oath," perfunctorily administered though it be, by passengers arriving from Europe.

These violators of the customs regulations are punished for this offence alone; their perjury is condoned by common consent. Recently a Judge sentenced a man convicted of perjury, but relented for reasons that would never have operated in his mind had he not been under the influence of this unfortunate mental attitude of the public. So long as witnesses had "the fear of God in their hearts" the logical conclusion was that conscience, which according to the Bard of Avon "makes cowards of us all," would restrain them from perjury while on earth and that surely the dread of punishment in the future life would be a deterrent. Times have changed, the sincere believer is either in the minority or he is a professed believer. A complete reversal of present day judicial methods regarding witnesses is in order. Judges are beginning to take the initiative, as they should do, or at least they should direct the District Attorneys to bring to immediate trial witnesses whose testimony has been clearly proved false. The more swift and thorough the punishment the better secured will be the administration of justice.

A few days ago a Judge had four men indicted for perjury. We shall watch these trials, especially the sentences, with deep concern. May the latter be sufficiently severe to serve as a restraining lesson to other perjurers.

Unbarbered Brooklyn.

The prosperity of makers of safety razors, entirely attributable to their intelligent use of advertising matter, had about persuaded us that so far as shaving was concerned the occupation of barbers was gone. The automatic individual hair cutting machine has not yet appeared, it is true, and the necessity men are under of having their locks shorn periodically would account for the continuance of a few barber shops. It has been our conviction for some time, however, that most of them existed principally to shelter manicure girls, who in them receive, we are informed, a wage higher than that necessary for the preservation of their good moral character.

The effects of the barbers' strike seem to indicate that our beliefs were ill founded. Brooklyn is described to-day as a community of men with several days' growth of beard on their chins, the man of shining countenance being the exception. The self-shaver is a negligible quantity in the borough, if the fear inspiring accounts of its male inhabitants now current are to be trusted. The majority of its population possessing the right of suffrage still resorts helplessly to the sign of the bandaged arm; [illegible] subject their faces to the scraping process. Perhaps Saturday night is still bath night on the western end of Long Island.

Were the inconvenience resulting from the barbers' strike to bring about the reinstatement of full beards we should rejoice. The full beard is the true badge of manhood, and it covers a multitude of weak chins. The stubbled fields through which male Brooklyn now inserts its food into its bodies may bear crops of dignity and beauty.

The 40,000 Ton Dreadnought.

According to a despatch from Washington the General Board of the Navy will ask Congress next year to make an appropriation for a single battleship to cost about $20,000,000, and it is planned to construct a dreadnought of 40,000 tons displacement, which would be 9,000 tons greater than the displacement of the Pennsylvania. That great ship will have a water line belt of sixteen inches, a main battery of twelve 14 inch guns and a torpedo defence battery of twenty-two 5 inch guns.

The Fuso of the Japanese navy, which was laid down at Kure in March, 1912, will have a displacement of 30,000 tons, and details of her armament and armor plate have not been divulged, but it has been assumed that as the tendency is toward guns of greater calibre she will carry a main battery exceeding the powerful new 13.5 inch guns of the British navy, perhaps 15 *inch guns*.

If the Pennsylvania is to have a main battery of 14 inch guns the presumption is that a United States battleship of 40,000 tons would carry a heavier calibre and at the water line would have a thicker plate than sixteen inches. The object of course would be to make her hull impenetrable by the shell of any opponent and to render an enemy's ship vulnerable at a range of something like 8,000 yards, at which distance the sea battles of the future will probably begin. In a paper read at the first congress of the Society of the Italian Naval Architects and Marine Engineers at Rome last November Count GIRALDI, director of the Armstrong factory at Pozzuli, presented a table showing that at a range of 7,638 yards, 7,000 meters, a 16 inch projectile with a weight of 2,343 pounds would penetrate armor plate 18.5 inches in thickness, and that at 6,547 yards the penetration would be 19.3 inches, at 5,375 yards 20.15 inches, and at 4,364 yards, 4,000 meters, it would be 21.1 inches. The explosive charge increases with the calibre of the projectile. Thus a 14 inch projectile weighing 1,540 pounds carries about fifty-four pounds of explosive, and the havoc it could do after making a breach in the side of a ship is appalling.

The calculation made in Washington that Congress can always be depended upon to vote for one new battleship is probably sound, but whether it would be willing to appropriate as large a sum as $20,000,000 for one ship may be doubted. The proposal would certainly precipitate a discussion about the limit of displacement and calibre. There must be a point at which the calibre of the gun, which has completely proved its superiority to the armor plate, had better stop, and it is debatable whether a leviathan of 40,000 tons, which might succumb to the hazards of navigation or be destroyed by an interior explosion, is to be preferred to three dreadnoughts like the Wyoming carrying main batteries of 12 inch guns.

Years must pass, years of educational and constructive and destructive work, before the British hen becomes a self-supporting institution.—*London Spectator.*

Let her come over and take a few lessons from the American hen. She didn't have to go to night school to find out how to do it.

These terms, "Naturwissenschaft," naturwissenschaftliche Behandlung," correspond to the positivistic tendencies of the era; they are essentially equivalent to "empirical," "methodically inductive," "non-metaphysical."—*Philosophical Review.*

Our way is now considerably clearer. Most of us knew that something has been radically wrong with the era; and now those troublemakers are cornered. In a word, we have been too methodically metaphysical, with the result that said got on the track.

Mental indigestion is a malady from which we all suffer from time to time.—*Saturday Review.*

What are the best salts to take, a complete course in THOMAS W. LAWSON or an extract from the Hon. CORDELL HULL?

There can be nothing more important to our future than the improvement of rural life.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

Exactly what improvements can you suggest, extension telephones to the cow shed and the silo, or a self-starter on the dairy maid's new roadster?

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce has extended an urgent invitation to Japanese farmers in California to emigrate to New Mexico and take up homes in the Pecos Valley.—*Despatch from Carlsbad, N. M.*

The invitation will inevitably provoke a vigorous protest in California, for it was at the solicitation of the large landowners in that State that the provision for three years leases of agricultural lands to Japanese was put into the Webb bill at the eleventh hour. Carlsbad does not seem to understand that the alien land tenure legislation at Sacramento was purely political and Johnsonian.

The militants made a great mistake when they stoned the house of JOHN DILLON, M. P., in Dublin because Mr. DILLON had declared that he would vote against votes for women every time. When the Irish fighting blood is up an opponent's cause must be very strong and terrible or it is lost. JOHN DILLON'S bravery will be an inspiration to the antis everywhere in the British Isles.

We wish that all policemen knew how and when to use their pistols as well as Patrolman ANDERSON who killed a murderous lunatic on Sunday, does. Possibly it would have been unnecessary to kill the man had the policeman had a nightstick with which to defend himself, but under the circumstances ANDERSON acted with discretion and skill.

On Sunday night Senator WAGNER, whose name is attached to the welfare commission bill, is reported to have used this language, almost as extraordinary as the measure:

"The social evil does not draw its recruits from the daughters of the rich; and the men of wealthy families are not affected by the gamoling evil. The silk stocking element to a large extent seems interested in continuing rather than in suppressing these evils."

It seems to be Senator WAGNER'S intention to manufacture popular support for his fantastic proposal by representing "the rich" and the "silk stockings" as opposed to it. As a matter of fact his plan is a genuine "silk stocking" plan of the old mugwump breed. It is a supplanting of popular government, so far as two proper functions of the Police Department are concerned, by a committee of "the wise and good."

The only persons interested, and interested by the pocketbook motive, in the continuance and prosperity of gambling and the social evil, are said to be warm advocates of Mr. WAGNER'S machinery for "suppressing those evils."

Oil as Steamer Fuel.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—SIR: In connection with your cable from London about use of oil as steamer fuel it may interest your readers to learn that the first person to suggest the trial was a young newspaper man named Julius Chambers. That was many, many years ago. His attempt to introduce it met with the usual fate of untried novelties. It was jeered at as impracticable as well as too dangerous even if it could be employed for propulsion instead of coal. But the steamer lords have learned wisdom and now it is to be tried on the Olympic.

The world "do" move, as the late Mrs. Partington would have said.

NEW YORK, May 12. T. Y. RENNOCK.

Mr. Hering Is Satisfied.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—SIR: I am more than satisfied, "Ambrose," dear. Instead of coldly doing the trick at the start by quoting its own slogan in reply, the most readable newspaper in America generously gives its space to a couple of unpalatable letters—facts are always dry—and then presents an amusing editorial opinion containing some excellent advice to its architects to practise what we preach before advertising our virtues.

I should worry! OSWALD C. HERING.

NEW YORK, May 12.

The Senatorial Lemonade.

The bottled water supply of the Senate has been cut off. Last year they consumed 7,000 gallons, chiefly in making the famous Senatorial lemonade.—*Washington despatch.*

No more the lucent lemonade will lure them from the hall.
The nutrimental nectar of the Club Capitoline,
Where like tinkle of the tabor tapped the ice in tumblers tall,
And the cherry wreathed in chaplets added charm unto the scene.

They've had handed them a lemon, in a figurative way.
While from them have been literally lifted many more.

All the straws show how the wind blows as they moulder and decay.
While the organs of absorption palpitate in every pore.

All is over, all has vanished, and content vacates her seat.
Defiled, defied, defeated by the wretched wiles of woe;
And in Washington this summer as they simmer in the heat,
They must tinker up the tariff on Potomac H_2O.

MAURICE MORRIS.

THE DARKNESS OF HULL.

Ambiguous and Confused Language of the Income Tax Bill.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—SIR: "Interested" seems to have stated the case of the "poor" bondholder ("po r" used in strictly Hullian sense) pretty thoroughly. The exceedingly involved and ambiguous language used in the bill prompts me to suggest that possibly not even the expenditure of notary fees, postage, carfare and profanity will enable the bondholder to get back his 40 cents tax.

At the end of the paragraph dealing with this phase of the income tax is this:

But in each case the benefit of the exemption and the deduction allowable under this section may be had by complying with the foregoing provisions of this paragraph.

Going back step by step over the said paragraph we learn:

1. * * * The amount of the normal tax herein imposed shall be deducted and withheld from * * * interest upon bonds * * * although such interest does not amount to $4,000, in the same manner and subject to the same provisions of this section requiring the tax to be withheld at the source and deducted from annual income.

2. * * * Such person shall not receive the benefit of the exemption of $4,000 allowed herein unless he shall * * * file with the person who is required to withhold and pay tax for him an affidavit claiming the benefit of such exemption * * * and the showing thus made shall become a part of the return to be made in his behalf by the person required to withhold and pay the tax. * * *

3. All * * * corporations * * * having the control * * * or payment, directly or indirectly, of interest * * * of another person * * * *who are required to make and render a return in behalf of another, as provided herein*, are hereby authorized and required to deduct and withhold from such annual * * * income * * * the normal tax * * * and shall pay * * * &c.

Turning back to Section D, which deals with the matter of making returns, we get the interesting information:

* * * and also all * * * corporations * * * having the control or payment of * * * income of another person subject to tax, and who are required by the provisions hereinafter to withhold and deduct the normal income tax and pay to the Government for such other person, shall in behalf of such person make and render a return, as aforesaid, but separate and distinct, of the portion of the income of each person from which the normal tax has been thus withheld, and containing also the name and address of such person: Provided that in either case above mentioned, no return of income not exceeding $3,000 shall be required. * * *

So that it is just possible the bank or trust company which "indirectly" controls and pays the coupon might take the stand that while the law compels it to withhold and pay to the Government the normal tax thereon, it does not oblige it to make a return on behalf of the owner of the coupon; therefore the proffered affidavit would be of no use to it and would be respectfully but firmly shoved back to the unhappy bondholder. Then the bondholder can take his affidavit to the collector of the district and see if the latter can find anything in the law which will authorize the Government to refund the 40 cents.

Under the circumstances my sympathetic advice to "Interested" is to sell his bonds and buy preferred stock or "tax free" bonds.

Here's another interesting question for the gentleman from Tennessee, if he is not already weary of the subject. Who is to make the returns and pay the tax on incomes at the source? Section D says those "who are required by the provisions hereinafter to withhold and deduct the normal tax" must make a return. Section E says those "who are required to make and render a return in behalf of another, as provided herein," must withhold and pay the tax.

The more I study these two clauses the worse befogged I am. When I ask who must make the return I am told in the law the man who pays the tax. When I ask who must pay the tax it turns out to be the man who makes the return. What's the answer? W. H. L.

WAYNE, Pa., May 10.

HIRAM JOHNSON'S GAME.

The Alien Land Tenure Bill Passed to Please the Labor Politicians.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—SIR: As a citizen of the United States and also as a citizen of California I should like to say a few things plainly through the medium of THE SUN about the very unpatriotic attitude of the Governor and Legislature of California on the question of anti-Japanese land tenure.

In California "organized labor," dominated by so-called "leaders," who are more or less self-seeking political agitators, is a potential factor in all political contests in the State. As an offshoot and auxiliary a so-called anti-Asiatic league, called the Asiatic Exclusion League, is the instrumentality for carrying on a propaganda aimed against the Japanese in California and those Japanese who might come into the State. This organization, representing "organized labor," exacted pledges from all candidates for public office in the last State campaign.

The Democratic party, however, was the only one that made a platform declaration in favor of an anti-Japanese land law. It is the open boast of the so-called "leaders" of the labor organizations referred to that they have the signed pledges of ninety per cent. of the legislators to pass an anti-Japanese land law. This being so, it is but a reasonable presumption that a similar pledge was given by men who were candidates for Governor.

Governor Johnson, as the recognized leader of the Progressive party in California, is cognizant of the fact that his party is facing a very spirited contest with the Democrats for supremacy in the State. It was known to him and to his henchmen in the Legislature that the Democrats were planning to make a coup in the matter of anti-Japanese legislation. Inasmuch as this would strengthen the Democratic party with the labor organizations referred to, the Governor realized that it was up to him and his followers to checkmate this strategic move by the Democrats and in a way to convince the labor leaders that the Progressive party was the party for them to tie to in order to get such legislation as they demanded. Wherefore the arrogant attitude taken by the Governor and his henchmen toward the Federal authorities in the matter of legislation in conflict with an existing international treaty and in violation of the Federal organic law. They want to be in a position to say: "We carried out our contract; we kept our pledge. We enacted an anti-Japanese land law and tried to draw it so that it would stand a test of its validity by the Federal courts. If we failed, it is not our fault, but the fault of the Federal Constitution or the judiciary whose function it is to construe the Constitution."

The Governor as a politician knows that this would evoke for him and his political party in California the sympathy of the labor organizations and maybe gain their political support. That with the Governor and his following is the chief consideration. They know that without such support the Progressive party in California would lose its ascendency. Then, what sort of a figure would Governor Johnson cut as perhaps the would-be national leader of the Progressive party in the campaign of 1916?

It may be expected that the result of this political juggling will be an outcry against "the high handedness of the Federal judiciary in interfering with the exercise of constitutional prerogative by a sovereign State." And the demand would be for the recall of judicial decisions as rendered by the Federal courts in conflict with State rights.

It would not surprise anybody if this were the paramount plank in the Progressive party platform in the campaign of 1916.

JOHN AUBREY JONES.

OAKLAND, Cal., May 6.

Conjugal Amenities.

Knicker—You must take me for a bank; you are always asking for money.

Mrs. Knicker—You must take me for a railroad; you are always thinking I can do with less.

NUTMEG SWITCHEL.

Hard Cider and Molasses Imprisoned in a Stone Jug.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—SIR: The editorial article in THE SUNDAY SUN on "Switchel and a Disingenuous Editor" took me back to the many happy boyhood days spent on my grandfather's farm in Connecticut forty years ago. In having time switchel was the universal drink of the workers. It was a mixture of hard cider and New Orleans molasses. I have seen it mixed many times. If there was water in it I have forgotten about it.

The mowing was mostly done by hand. Mowing machines were scarce and little used. In the morning and at noon before the work began the switchel was prepared and put in a stone jug. When the work started the jug was taken to a convenient place and left in the shade to keep it cool. From time to time the workers would stop long enough for a refreshing drink of switchel. The hotter the day the more switchel was drunk.

Every year several barrels of cider were made on the farm, and it was good cider. Unless one has picked up the apples himself and taken them to the cider mill, where he has helped to grind and press them and got the juice right fresh, he does not know what real cider is. And then a nice cool cellar with a row of fifteen or twenty cider barrels containing the varying products of several years! At one end was the oldest, the new barrel always started at the other end of the line. The barrel was placed horizontally, bunghole up and open. And then the trips to the cellar! Some few were official, many more surreptitious, to suck the cider through a straw at the bunghole. After a day or two the cider "worked" and foamed a little at the bunghole. Then it was time to tap the barrel. There is no finer drink than cider two or three days old drawn from the wood in a clean, cool cellar. This bought stuff the New Yorker gets at home is not to be compared with it. So much for fresh cider. But the Connecticut farmer of my boyhood liked "hard" cider best. The cider several months or a year old appealed more to his palate.

Switchel was made of last year's cider. The molasses was New Orleans molasses and was bought by the gallon drawn from the barrel, thick and black. The weak and thin kind the New York flat dweller buys by the quart in bottles is not the same.

One picturesque farm hand my grandfather had used to work in haying time with his galluses down and his shirt out like a Chinaman's blouse. And how he could consume switchel on a hot day of hard cider on a cold one!

And now for a confession. I did not know switchel had a place in the dictionary till I read your article. Worcester says it is made of molasses and water. You have quoted Webster. I have drunk switchel, and I cannot subscribe to the definition of either. I don't believe they ever tasted it.

It is only a short time since I was talking of switchel to some up New York State friends. They had never heard of it. Is it, or was it, peculiar to New England?

WALTER SANDS MILLS.

NEW YORK, May 12.

The "Open Sesame" of the Drys.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—SIR: It remained for the writer of the editorial article on "Switchel" to reveal a seventy-five year old secret, the password of the Prohibitionists, "Sometimes." Now that "switchel" and "sometimes" are out the grand hailing sign may be published. 'Tis given by elevating right arm to horizontal, elbow crooked outward, thumb pointing to mouth and fingers concaved toward thumb. Thirty years fishing in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont long ago disclosed these secrets to me; but in Vermont switchel is called "celery compound."

And this reminds me: When Dick Rowe had "made good" in Chicago he came home, built a bungalow in the old cow pasture and gave a house warming. Came Mrs. John and Colonel Doe, the deep chested, sonorous Prohibition spokesman of the northern part. At the sideboard, "Colonel, have a drink?" "Sir," orated the Colonel, "sooner than see this good right hand of mine (hailing sign position) lift a glass to my lips to pollute my soul I'd cut it off," and cut it off he did with the well honed edge of his left hand, to the admiration of Mrs. Doe and all the deacons.

Coming into the kitchen they found a group of the ungodly at table with pitcher, glasses and bottle. The lady lifted her skirts and fled, the Colonel trailing, slowly tottering as he remembered, towards bed. Vanished. "Mr. Rowe, I remember I have a long, cold ride home and sometimes a little something is good for the stomach's sake." "Good enough," said Dick, "fill her up." And the Colonel poured four fingers and a thumb of redeye. As the glass was tipping to his lips the swift swish of skirts palsied his good right hand and, projecting his bosom, "Gentlemen, sooner than see this good right hand move this glass to my lips to pollute my soul I'd cut it off"; and cutting it off he put down the untasted glass, and with a stomachache and a sigh was led off to the unfermented vineyard by his adoring spouse. SOMETIMES.

NEW YORK, May 12.

MR. UNDERWOOD'S THREAT.

Comment on One of the Most Extraordinary Warnings Ever Uttered.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Mr. Underwood does no pleading. Metaphorically, after setting on the free trade dog, he draws a bead on every howler with a new gun he has called the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and threatens any who may try to salve their wounds by reducing their manufacturing costs as a way of meeting the lower prices of imported goods under the new tariff. "Stand for it," says Mr. Underwood in effect. "Maybe it hurts, and maybe it doesn't, but it's a new experimental demonstration of an old theory, and if you don't stand for it I'll blow you up."

The threat is confession that the free traders realize impending losses to business under the operation of their law. It would be a dream of madness to think that any business man, not finding himself a loser under the law, would invite heavy losses by provoking strikes among his operatives with a proposed reduction in wages. It would be an equal dream of madness to think that any business man finding losses under the law's operation will not try to find a means of equalizing them. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Underwood are not madmen, but only devotees of a theory which they are determined upon applying to the business of the country, and keep applied until the business of the country goes to smash or their theory is vindicated.

Taxing Outlay.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—SIR: It is easy to make clear the inequity of placing an income tax on the misnamed "dividends" of mutual life insurance policies by setting forth a simple and common case. A man holds a policy providing for annual "dividends"; premium $200. His "dividend" in a certain year is $60, which he applies on the premium, making the net cost of his insurance $140.

This transaction is evidently all outlay and in no degree income. The Government is to say to him: You may make this insurance contract provided you pay a tax on the $60-$60 of deduction, mind you, not of income at all.

Is there any other country in the world where insurance for the benefit of one's dependents is made harder by the Government? Is it not rather the study of all progressive Governments, outside of this land of the free, to make it easier?

WALTER M. WILSON.

BROOKLYN, May 11.

The Round Court House.

Unanimous the vote,
For every one agree
In beauty, grace and shape
It looks like just the cheese.

PORTO RICO STIRRED OVER SUGAR TARIFF

Threat to Reduce the Duty Has Caused Stagnation, Says Editor Hough.

SHOULD PROTECT ISLAND

Reorganization Would Take a Long Time and Distress Would Result.

Porto Rico's intense interest in the proposed new tariff bill was set forth in vigorous terms yesterday by Olney Hough, editor of the *American Exporter*, who returned on the steamship Coamo after a four months' study of conditions on the island.

"Last year," said Mr. Hough, "Porto Rico's overseas commerce amounted to almost $100,000,000. Nearly $50,000,000 of this represented purchase of goods manufactured in or exported by the United States. Our manufacturers and exporters face the immediate probability of having this great market cut to one-half or less of its present importance.

"The mere threat of a reduction in duty on sugar has caused general stagnation in business throughout Porto Rico. It seems to me that the American press and people, as well as our legislators, may well stop and consider the vital injury that will result in Porto Rico from a modification of the existing tariff.

"In the first place one-half of the present large business with Porto Rico will be lost, or in other words American manufacturers will sacrifice approximately $25,000,000 worth of trade a year if any reduction in the duty on sugar is put into effect. I do not say that it is impossible for the sugar growers and the sugar mills in Porto Rico to readjust their affairs in the course of three or four years so as to continue the business with some faint chance of making occasional profits, but such reorganization will take a long time, will be accompanied by actual economic distress in Porto Rico and with decidedly unpleasant loss of trade to us.

"Many of the best informed people in the island declare that it is impossible to produce sugar there at a profit if the proposed 25 per cent. reduction in duties goes into effect. Granting that with readjustment all along the line it may be possible for the Porto Ricans to work with such a reduction it involves first of all a heavy cut in the wages of laborers, which will almost certainly be acompanied by distress, if not by unpleasantly energetic protests.

"In the growing of sugar Porto Rico unfortunately cannot compete on equal terms with other sugar countries. Under the most favorable circumstances it costs something like two and three-quarter cents a pound to put sugar on board vessel at a Porto Rican port. It costs under similar circumstances only about one and seven-eighths cents a pound to put sugar on board vessel on the Cuban coasts.

"Porto Rican soil has been under most intensive cultivation for 150 or 200 years. It requires a great deal of fertilizer and much more frequent ploughing than do sugar lands in Cuba. Having taken Porto Rico under our wings does it not behoove us to protect its principal industry, and is not sugar one of those commodities which can withstand the slight impost that has hitherto been put upon it?

"Of course Porto Rico has other industries as well, although the manufacture of the island is and probably must be, as we tell it, the sugar business. In the past five years exports of Porto Rican coffee have grown from $4,300,000 to $6,750,000. The fruit business in Porto Rico has grown in five years from $1,100,000 to $2,400,000. The total overseas commerce of Porto Rico has grown since 1901 from $17,500,000 to $31,600,000, an increase in eleven years of 524 per cent. American business men in Porto Rico cannot understand why the United States Government should now be considering a blow that will reduce in a moment of their prosperity of late years to nothing.

"The ruin of the sugar industry in Porto Rico will reach far beyond the confines of that particular branch of commerce. It will affect directly practically every branch of business in the island. The importers of provisions, the dealers in boots and shoes and clothing, all the merchants in the island will suffer from the ruin of the sugar planters and the sugar mills. For example, the trade of a million dollars a year in American automobiles will be knocked in the head, for there will be no money in Porto Rico to be spent in that direction."

SPEED WAR IN NAVAL BOARD

Increase From 20 to 25 Knots on Battleships to Be Argued.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—The General Board of the Navy, of which Admiral Dewey is the head, will take up the question soon of whether or not the United States navy shall adopt the battleship of at least twenty-five knots speed instead of twenty knots. Some members are in favor of such a type of vessel and are arranging to bring the matter before the naval council. Some members oppose it. They argue that if the speed is to be increased to twenty-five knots either reductions must be made in guns and armor or the size of the vessel must be increased.

It is estimated that to carry the same armament and fuel supplies needed by the present type of vessel and make twenty-five knots there will be needed a 40,000 ton vessel, 2,000 tons more than the maximum displacement yet reached in any navy. For a 40,000 ton vessel changes probably would have to be made in navy yard docks and channels of some of the principal ports of the country.

The British plan is to build battleships of high speed. The German idea is to build battle cruisers—speedy vessels which require their speed at a sacrifice of armor protection.

WILSON PLANS TO STOP FLOODS

Tells Gov. Cox Government Engineers Are Busy on Project.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—President Wilson informed Gov. James Cox of Ohio at the White House to-day that he had the Government engineers at work on a comprehensive plan for flood prevention. He said this plan would provide for control of the rivers' headwaters as well as of the waters when they get lower down.

Gov. Cox came here to urge measures for flood prevention with the President. The Governor said as he left that he was sure a series of impounding reservoirs will be constructed at the headwaters which would cost great sums, but which the Government would be justified in expending.

"The pork barrel should be rolled further away from the Atlantic Coast," he said in reference to the annual river and harbor appropriation bill. "The middle West has paid the freight for the pork barrel long enough and the time has come when we should reap some of its benefits."