The Sun

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1913.

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

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 50
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 50
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	75
THE EVENING SUN, Per Month	25
THE EVENING SUN, Per Year	2 50

Postage to foreign countries added.

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

Readers of THE SUN leaving town for the summer months can have the morning and Sunday editions delivered to them in any part of this country or Europe on the terms stated above. Addresses changed as often as desired. Order through newsdealer or directly of Publication Office, telephone 2300 Beekman.

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

London office, Effingham House, 1 Arundel street, Strand.

Paris office, 6 Rue de la Michodière, off Rue du Quatre Septembre.

Washington office, Hibbs Building.

Brooklyn office, 16 Livingston street.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Absentee.

Mr. BRYAN's excursions from Washington and his post of duty to gratify his incurable cacoethes loquendi or Yawp's disease have become more than a joke. They are a scandal. A Secretary of State whose department is crowded with grave and delicate international controversies neglects the country's business for his pleasure. Ambassadors of foreign nations must catch him, if at all, at banquets in other cities or between trips at Washington. Having had little but vacation since March 4, he now proposes to take a six weeks "vacation" from July 19, a paid spouter on the Chautauqua circuit. He gayly deserts the work for which the United States pays him $12,000 a year to discharge his rhetoric and collect dollars on the road.

Since Mr. BRYAN seems to have no sense of public obligation, of official responsibility or of loyalty to the Administration upon which his evasion of his functions has already brought ridicule and is in more than a fair way to bring contempt; since the mighty mouthed Democratic protagonist of all the political and moral virtues is content to be a loafer and a shirk, what is Mr. WILSON going to do about it? Is Mr. BRYAN to be treated continuously as the spoiled child of the Cabinet? Does Mr. WILSON believe that the Secretary's insolent uselessness is a defiance to him best answered by letting Mr. BRYAN's admirers have time to let his official faineance and impotency soak into their minds?

Either Mr. BRYAN is competent to be Secretary of State or he is not. If he is he should be made to do his work. If he is not, he should be thrown out. Meanwhile, he should be forced to choose between the Department of State and the tents of Chautauqua.

The Descending Scale.

Of the six men whose names appear as the fusion list of possibilities for nomination for Mayor, one is preeminently fitted for the office, another would make an admirable executive for the city, and two of the others are respectably if not markedly qualified to perform its duties. This is a good enough showing, an outcome of the deliberations a peg or so above what we had expected.

But the suggestions for the office of President of the Board of Aldermen! In what political adolescence was conceived the proposal to entrust three votes in the Board of Estimate and the possibility of the Mayor's chair to any of these:

JOHN J. HOPPER, HENRY H. CURRAN, RALPH FOLKS, EMORY R. BUCKNER

The members of the committee may have exhausted themselves in their cogitations over the rivalries evoked in the contest for the nomination for Mayor; they may have thought to lighten their labors by a grim jest; or NORMAN HAPGOOD may have slipped this list of names into the report while the grownup members of the committee were not looking.

Government "Supervision."

The Pittsburg "$43,000,000" First-Second National Bank trouble will probably not involve nearly as large an amount as that, and Secretary of the Treasury McADOO was perfectly correct in describing it as a sporadic case of bad banking. The difficulty caused by it seems already substantially at an end. This particular instance is valuable for the light it throws upon American banking.

Our banking institutions are a heterogeneous mass of State and national organizations, some bound rather loosely under the national bank act and others connected by private ties which have been called into being by the desire of bankers themselves for a greater measure of mutual protection. We have, it is true, a species of State and national bank supervision; but it is a sleazy supervision at best, and a greater degree of mutual inspection and supervision which the banks themselves have established seems to be largely responsible for the notion that somebody is trying to create a "money trust."

What it is essential to note now is that the new scheme of banking reform proposed at Washington would not have prevented the Pittsburg failure at all. Nothing has been shown more clearly in the past than that a regulation of banking practices that is wholly governmental and in no way depends upon the mutual oversight of banks upon each other forms no safeguard. Government supervision is almost always hasty and to a great extent careless and superficial. Only when the supervision is practised by the agents of those who have personal money interests at stake does a really effectual supervision exist.

It came to light yesterday in official bulletins of the Treasury Department that at the very time the Comptroller of the Currency had given formal approval of the First-Second National Bank as a reserve agent special examiners from his office were investigating the institution's solvency, which had been seriously called in question. We commend all this to the attention of Representative GLASS, Senator OWEN and their associates, in the hope that it will lead them to modify their notions that the Government and the Government alone should be placed in control of the banks in the proposed plan of national bank reorganization.

The Fatal Grade Crossing.

Questions of individual responsibility for accidents occurring at railroad grade crossings sink into insignificance beside the heavy public accountability for permitting these death traps to exist. Whether the railroad company or the victims in any specific case, such as the tragedy on the Jericho turnpike, should bear the burden of recklessness, in the end the public indifference that invites such killings is actually chargeable with deaths resulting from them.

This State has made a paper beginning in the abolition of grade crossings at the joint expense of all the corporations involved. Unhappily for the population, the enforcement of this improvement has been prosecuted intermittently and without vigor. The appropriations have been inadequate and neglected, frequently suffering in order that purely political enterprises should not be deprived of their sustenance. Generally this project of removing a continuing source of danger from the highways has been relegated to the category of inferior and incidental activities, to take its chances with other designs of minor consequence.

That the presence of a watchman or the installation of gates would render a repetition of Thursday night's fatal affair impossible nobody can say. The joy rider is likely to evade the most ingenious safety devices. Yet the fact that the crossing was unguarded emphasizes the criminal complacency with which a community that permits the enactment of so ridiculous a measure as the full train crew bill treats a real danger that daily and nightly, from year's end to year's end, menaces the lives of its people.

The Plagiarist in the Theatre.

DAVID BELASCO has again been exonerated from the charge of plagiarism which has pursued him for so many years. Authors have been on his trail ever since his successes in the theatre began, and just in the degree that he has succeeded have the charges against him increased in number. One has yet to hear of a struggle for the rights to a play that did not please the public.

Judge JULIUS M. MAYER in the case of the latest claim that Mr. BELASCO had taken the material of another for his own use observes that "it is to be expected that two playwrights working independently from a common source may develop similarities in their plots and their lines," which is the judicial comment on the singular fact that the latest person to bring suit against the manager admitted that the play she offered him was founded on the work of another writer, who supplied her with the theme of the work she averred that Mr. BELASCO had appropriated.

Not in one case out of ten does the character or the story or the dialogue make the property of a drama; it is the way in which these matters are set forth by the playwright, with the skill and knowledge that he has acquired by experience or by some lucky gift of Providence. There should be no effort, however, to depreciate the value of originality and picturesqueness in story nor of truthfulness and freshness in the observation of character nor of witty language.

To know, however, that it is the skill of the dramatist which gives these qualities their value would be to discourage the amateurs and the unknowns so eager to claim the work of conspicuous writers for the stage.

A Ray of Hope in the Tuberculosis Cloud.

Among the apparently insurmountable difficulties confronting those who are actively participating in the battle against the white plague is the management of the enormous number of cases among the poor. It has been truly said that the tuberculosis question is a question of money to a great extent, the well to do being able to furnish the comforts and environment required for a restoration of health, while the less favored must either become objects of charity or die amid their more or less unfavorable conditions.

With commendable wisdom the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor has devised a project, termed the home hospital treatment, upon which we have commented favorably and for which we predicted success. It is gratifying to learn from its report of the first year's work, made before the Tuberculosis Society at Washington, that this method of retaining the incipiently tuberculous in their homes and thus maintaining their usefulness to their families has met with favorable results that warrant a continuation of this sensible course. When the modern dwellings constructed by Mrs. VANDERBILT under advisement of Dr. SHIVELY were opened the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor leased a section of twenty-four apartments for the purpose of housing families containing tuberculous patients. In this way they attempted to care for the sick, to preserve the family unit, to prevent infection, especially among the children, and to maintain the self-supporting independence of the family. The society provided medical attention and nursing, even adding to the income of indigent families when necessary to help the breadwinner.

In other words, instead of sending the patient to a sanitarium and his family to charitable institutions where their maintenance would be entirely at the public expense, the breadwinner was offered a home adapted to his and the family's needs, with all safeguards against diffusion of the disease and for restoration of health, not the least of which was the psychical factor of favorable environment and hope. The result is precisely the same as this society has often achieved in other directions, for example, in demonstrating that the toiler would use public baths; a lesson to the philanthropic and to the public administrators of charity funds.

Among the twenty-seven families housed in these models of sanitary architecture there were seventy-nine tuberculosis cases and fifty-six tuberculosis candidates by reason of ill nourishment. There are 61 per cent. of apparent cures, 22 per cent. arrested and 11 per cent. improved, a result which is superior to sanitarium treatment. The children showed marked improvement in losing the tenement house look. Most of the persons transferred into this favorable environment gained weight.

That these economic advantages may be achieved by an intelligent adaptation of means to ends is now demonstrated; they may serve to multiply the effect of present activities to so great an extent that we feel justified in regarding this successful experiment as a ray of hope glinting into the sinister cloud that overshadows the civilized peoples of the earth.

Look Up the Record.

Clinging stubbornly to its ancient partisan prejudices, the *Tribune* thus summarizes the *World's* plea for a city campaign devoted to a subject which in importance is subordinate to any one of at least half a dozen others:

"Our neighbor the *World* well says that since TWEED's time the only issue on which Tammany has been beaten in a local election is the police issue."

If the *Tribune* will expend twenty-five cents for a copy of the "World Almanac" for 1913 it will find on page 771 of that publication, under the heading "Government of the City of New York," a list of the officers of this town serving on January 1 of this year. Likewise, if the *World* will buy, for the same small sum, a copy of the "Tribune Almanac" for 1913 it will find under the heading "Principal City Officers," on page 537, a similar list. If the *Tribune* and the *World* will study these rosters they will learn that in the election of 1909 the Tammany candidate for Mayor, on whom would devolve the management of the Police Department, was elected, but so were the fusion candidates for President of the Board of Aldermen, Comptroller and Borough Presidents, who have nothing to do with the police. These officers were elected because fusion on them was complete. Mayor GAYNOR was elected because the votes that defeated his running mates were split between his opponents.

If the Tammany defeat of 1909 was the fruit of cultivation of the police issue the voters adopted a curious course to express themselves.

Sincere Epistles.

Any one who cares to compose a work entitled "The Complete Letter Writer" will do well to include various and sundry admonitions from Mayor GAYNOR on epistolary etiquette. It is a dull commonplace to remark that letter writing is a lost art, yet the Mayor is acquainted with certain fundamental rudiments of this talent of other days when Lady MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU and HORACE WALPOLE were in flower. But on one point he has just shown that he differs from some of the more ornate letter writers. In response to a minister's letter criticising the Mayor's recent address on "Sunday Observance" Mayor GAYNOR says:

"Your letter has rather too many adjectives to be sincere."

Here we have a working text not only for a sermon on insincerity but for a good chapter in "The Complete Letter Writer." It has often been held that adjectives weaken a thought, and now it seems they make thoughts bogus, artificial and shuffling. If a man is constantly saying: "to speak frankly and confidentially to you," do you not feel like replying: "Go ahead and speak, and let me judge whether or not it is frank and confidential"? Too many adjectives, as the Mayor says, make him too undissembling. We analyze the motive when a certain type of orator asks us "to pardon the bluff manners of an outspoken man."

Once a faker was selling spoons, and he said that "they look like silver, they wear like silver, but there is not a bit of silver in them."

The stupid and weak minded criminal is not so dangerous as the clever and intellectual criminal.—*Dr. MAXIMILIAN P. E. GROSSMANN, in a report of the United States Bureau of Education.*

It is the publication of this sort of stuff that makes the Government Printing Office the greatest institution of its kind in the world. Certainly no private printer could afford to waste paper, ink and type metal on it.

There was never in the political history of this State anything quite so intense as the rivalry for the county offices particularly.—*Despatch from Lexington, Ky.*

We do not wish to argue about the political history of Kentucky, but the general observation has been that county offices, city offices, State offices and Federal offices rarely ever hang on the tree until they are overripe. There is usually at least one apron under each plum whenever it gets ready to come down. The reason is that the pay envelope of the officeholder is just as fat no matter whether business is good or bad. A panic year affects him about as much as a poor clover crop affects the drones in a hive. It is the honey gatherers who have to hustle when the pollen is scarce. The queen bee may lay them off for a season if there's "nothing doing."

The total of transactions on the Stock Exchange yesterday was 163,500 shares, the commissions on which divided among 1,100 brokers would amount to only $18.56 apiece.—*News of the day.*

Well, according to TOM-TOM of Boston these brokers have luxurious offices, serve lobster and champagne, hand you a dollar cigar every time they meet you, entertain you, privately uptown at the most exclusive cafe, so $18.56 a day seems to go a good way on the side in addition to paying the rent and office force. "What did you do with that dime I gave you day before yesterday?" "Why, kind lady," replied the tramp, "I had a shave and a hair cut and bought a diamond ring."

Mr. BRYAN's friends say that this six weeks of talking will be his vacation.—*Despatch from Washington.*

One of those rare instances where vacation is synonymous with avocation. Fine strings snap when a harp is not in use.

The Governor refers to the fact that the State has expended about $400,000 to maintain order in the strike zone.—*Despatch from Charleston, W. Va.*

These are big days, and big prices for big strikes are merely in keeping with other articles on the national menu. Four hundred thousand dollars might endow a hospital and several schools, but strikes are more educative and progressive.

COURTS OF ARBITRATION.

A Solution for the Disputes Between Capital and Labor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In a matter of civil litigation, of disagreement between private citizens over personal interests, resort may be had to courts of law, which decide the matter in dispute authoritatively and impartially with respect to the merits of the case in question. This is, of course, as it should be. In the times when might made right, when law and the power to enforce it were weak and primitive, matters of serious dispute between individuals were usually adjusted by the strength of arm or weapon; but to-day such illegal methods are in disrepute and disagreements between private citizens over personal interests may be satisfactorily and sensibly decided by State or Federal courts of law, whose decisions are legal and final.

And likewise in a matter of disagreement and dispute between employers and employees over wages, hours of labor and other vital and important subjects, resort should be had to and decisions rendered by courts of arbitration, whose rulings and findings should be legal and final.

Such courts of arbitration, adequately authorized and empowered, should, exactly like other courts of law, exist in every one of the several States and Territories of our country. From the decisions of such local and State arbitration courts appeal should be provided, as in the case of our present courts of law, to some higher court of arbitration. These local and State arbitration courts could be so selected by vote of the people, judicial and legislative appointment, or other method, as absolutely to preclude all partiality and unfairness.

Courts of arbitration adequately legalized and empowered are to-day more a necessity than ever, and will become more and more a necessity as the twentieth century advances. No legal or economic system devised by man is absolutely flawless; but the present method of State and national adjustment of labor-capital disputes is unnecessarily unsatisfactory. As it stands, capital lies idle and labor loses wages as a result of even a short strike.

Then there is always the danger that a small strike will spread to proportions and to violence that may cause great damage and disaster to this country of ours. Something should be done to place our capital-labor controversies upon the same legal footing as the personal controversies between private individuals. A system of local and State courts of arbitration with a higher national court of appeal and final decision, legalized and empowered by our Government, should be immediately established to prevent strikes and to insure fair treatment both to the employed and his employer.

CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES.

TEMPLETON, Mass., July 10.

FOILING THE SPARROWS.

Subtle Tactics Necessary to Give Grass Seed a Chance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If my memory is not at fault, it was in a communication to THE SUN several months ago that I read how one of its readers had circumvented the pestiferous English sparrow which made havoc of his newly sown lawn. As I recall it, he soaked wheat in whiskey, and when it was placed in their way the sparrows gobbled it eagerly, whereupon they became intoxicated and were easily caught and killed.

This experiment was brought to my mind a few days ago when I had occasion to seed a new lawn. No sooner was the seed in than the lawn was taken possession of by a flock of about fifty sparrows. They stayed on the job a week or more, working overtime, from daylight until dark. After a couple of days of this annoyance it occurred to me to soak some rice in a bit of Jersey lightning which reposed in my sideboard. This I distributed in small piles in various parts of the lawn, but the birds never approached within a foot of it. Then it occurred to me that their taste for rice had not been developed, and I used clover seed, which was treated and distributed in the same way. But the effect was the same. I know a sparrow revels in clover seed, but they would not approach that which had been steeped in Jersey lightning.

However, I afterward made an interesting and it may be a valuable discovery. Having a new strip of lawn to seed, about 8 by 40 feet in extent, I took about three pints of lawn grass seed and poured over it about a gill of the applejack. Mixing this thoroughly, as one would flour and water for crackers, I sowed the strip with the impregnated seed. This was five days ago, and my observation is that the sparrows avoid this strip entirely. I have not seen one of them light upon it. SUN readers who have been similarly annoyed by these destructive pests may experiment as I have done, though one thing will have to be reckoned with: Maybe all sparrows are not prohibitionists.

ROCHESTER, July 11. H. S. RUDDY.

A Philippine Opportunity for a Believer in the Gentleness of Sharks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If "Maintop," the writer of the letter in THE SUN of July 5, will deposit the $500 with THE SUN and will grant me the time necessary to secure affidavits from the Philippines, I will present an authentic case of a Filipino being attacked and badly bitten by a shark, including an affidavit from the doctor who treated the man.

W. J. PEATKA.

NEW YORK, July 11.

The Duke of Essex Street.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* All true lovers of royalty will learn with hearts bowed in sorrow that the "Duke of Essex Street" is in need of mud baths and will hope that his aristocratic liver will soon perform its proper functions. But if the inspiring genius who crowned the "Duke" with his royal garlands could only have been here to have given a touch to the menu tendered the "Duke" by his constituents I am sure one of Finkel Finkelstein's game turtles that escaped the pot one day by swimming so fast in the cellar that Finkel couldn't catch him would have graced the banquet with savory odors.

JAMES D. DEWELL, Jr.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., July 11.

THE MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN.

Give the Taxpayers a Breathing Spell and Pledge Candidates.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Every intelligent citizen must subscribe to the truth of your editorial article of recent date entitled "The Right Issue for the Next Municipal Campaign."

While the facts stated by you, that the budget has grown 150 per cent. and the population 52 per cent. in the last fifteen years, are worthy of serious consideration, it is well to remember that during the same time the city has undertaken and carried to successful completion a number of gigantic enterprises at enormous expense that are rapidly increasing the wealth of the whole municipality. Two of these improvements, the subways and the three municipal ferries, have materially increased assessed valuations. Though the ferries are operated at a loss, this loss should disappear with the increase in traffic.

The magnificent new system of water supply, covering 883 square miles of land in the heart of the Catskill Mountains, capable of pouring a river of 767,000,000 gallons of water into the city every day and supplying all boroughs abundantly, will swell the city revenues.

All the bridges that the city requires for years have been erected. The docks are self-supporting, and the new municipal building will considerably lessen the expense of housing city departments. In addition to the large expense involved in making these improvements the city has been compelled to shoulder heavy burdens imposed by the Legislature.

Fortunately the time has arrived when it will be unnecessary to undertake any great public work for several years. The city can now relax the tension and give our taxpayers a needed rest without inconvenience or retarding the city's natural growth.

Ambitious officials desiring to perpetuate their names and make their administrations conspicuous by great achievements often commit the city to great expenditures that are unnecessary or could be put off for years without injury to the public. For this reason every candidate in the next election who if successful will have a voice in the Board of Estimate and Apportionment should be required to give a pledge to vote against any resolution appropriating money not absolutely necessary for the public welfare. Any administration that will conduct municipal affairs along lines of rigid economy for the next four years will render a most signal service to the community. If this policy is followed for a short time the results are certain to be gratifying.

Give the city a four year breathing spell and with the growth of population over 100,000 a year, together with the increase in assessable properties, public credit will be strengthened, municipal issues will advance, taxes fall and the metropolis be placed in a position where it can easily undertake any improvement of great magnitude.

When we consider that Greater New York supports an army of over 107,000 employees, with a payroll of $100,000,000; that the budget exceeds $190,000,000, and its bonded indebtedness is over a billion, we wonder how it is possible for any community, however large, to maintain such a burden.

The answer is, the almost incredible value of the land and improvements within the limits of the metropolis, a sum so great that it is difficult for the human mind to comprehend it.

The total assessed valuation of taxable real and personal property in 1910 amounted to the immense sum of $7,416,837,499, greater than the total assessed value of property in the States of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts combined.

Besides this there is exempted from taxation property owned by the city valued at about one billion dollars; property of churches, schools and charitable institutions valued at $822,365,754; United States Government property valued at $70,582,000, and New York State property valued at $1,756,000, making a grand total for all kinds of property of $8,775,857,638.

With these magnificent resources and four years of economy Father Knickerbocker can face the future with equanimity.

JOSEPH W. SAVAGE.

NEW YORK, July 11.

Then Where Can They Play?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now that the safe and sane Fourth of July idea has proved so successful in preventing juvenile casualties would it not be well to safeguard children the year round by prohibiting playing in the streets and avenues where there are surface car lines or where other traffic is heavy? Some thoroughfares are filled day and night with children engaged in boisterous play and recklessly racing across roadways in dangerous proximity to passing vehicles.

The close and constant watchfulness required on the part of motormen and drivers to avoid accidents is not unlikely to prove too severe for the "nerves" of some of them, resulting, perhaps, in a momentary and fatal relaxation of vigilance.

I know of a former motorman on the Third avenue line who resigned after a year's experience. He said the strain was too great for him; that his heart was in his mouth at many points along the route, and that he feared he would some time "lose his head" and run down some of these children.

Some of the many "children's welfare" societies should take this matter up with the Police Commissioner with the view of having him instruct patrolmen to keep children off these busy thoroughfares and relegate them to less dangerous streets.

NEW YORK, July 11. PARENT.

Tame Manhattan.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The editorial article "A Survival of a Buried City" gave me a mild shock when it met my eye, for it was oddly timed to sustain a view that I had imparted only last night to "a stranger within our gates" who stopped me in Forty-second street just west of Seventh avenue and asked "Where does a fellow go in this town when he wants to see some night life?"

When I answered "You've got me" he smiled and asked, "Stranger here, too?" When I told him that I was born and brought up within a few blocks of where we then were he was surprised. And when I told him that there was no district such as I thought he was seeking he was even more surprised. He said he was from San Francisco and was visiting New York for the first time and was prepared, even after San Francisco, to meet sensations in New York, but not the kind that I had just handed to him.

I finally directed him to the restaurants where he could see the "wildest" kind of "night life" that I am familiar with here, and that is tame indeed. I can remember a New York that would not answer to the above description, and I am not, at that.

AN OLD NEW YORKER.

NEW YORK, July 11.

A Dog Centre.

From La Center Advance.

Kentucky produces and ships more spring lambs than any other State in the Union and they are largely purchased by the most discriminating market of the country. But very few of them are from Ballard county; we raise dogs down here.

The Burning Question.

Knicker—Experience is the best teacher.

Booker—Is she married?

THE CURRENCY.

Business and the State of the Bank Reserves Its Controlling Factors.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The stumbling block in the path of banking and currency reform is not so much the defects and deficiencies of the Owen-Glass bill as the defects and deficiencies of its framers' understanding of what is and what is not monetary science. For instance, in explanation of the bill Senator Owen says:

In issuing the currency of the country, if this vital public function were to be placed in the hands of private parties so that the notes issued and redeemed were their notes, and not the notes of the United States, the banks could, with great force, immediately contend that since the issues of these notes were their notes, they would have a right to issue them in whatever volume they desired and contract the volume of our currency whenever they pleased. The eventualities of such a policy being ruinous if used in an ill advised way, it is not wise to establish such a policy where it would be difficult for the Government of the people to control the currency of the people, by which their contracts and the prices of the cost of living are so greatly measured.

Issuing the currency of the country is not a "vital public function"; it is not a public function at all. If there is anything that may be called the currency of the country it is the check currency, because in volume it exceeds by thousands of millions all other kinds. This currency is created by trade transactions which give rise to bank discounts, which create deposits, which create the right to draw checks. Banks exist to make money. They make loans for that purpose. If they don't make loans they don't make money. So they make loans when business demands and the condition of their reserves permits. Business and the state of the bank reserves are therefore the controlling factors in the creation of currency. Within these limitations the banks issue currency "in whatever volume they desire" and "contract the volume of our currency whenever they please," and "the eventualities of such a policy" are not ruinous; indeed, they are the opposite, and the whole operation is satisfactory and very nicely adjusted. To talk about "the Government of the people controlling the currency of the people" is nonsense.

It is nonsense to talk about currency as the measure of anything. The only measure or standard of value is gold. Currency is not even money. A note currency, whether issued by the Government or the banks, is not money. It should be check currency, issued in more convenient form for more general circulation, and should therefore be the result of exactly the same commercial operations.

It is obvious that Senator Owen does not understand the difference between currency and money, or that any interference with the currency by the Government, except to give it stability and uniformity and to prevent fraud against it, is interference with an automatic adjustment between trade and banking. How can we hope for a sound currency law when the chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency does not know what currency is?

SILAS BENT.

CHICAGO, July 9.

ILL MANNERED CHILDREN.

A Sufferer Describes Visits Far From Angelical.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When we who grew up a generation ago recall the stress that was laid on morals and manners in our school readers we are made to wonder why it is that parents have so far forgotten those lessons as to allow their children to act the part of the ill mannered that they do, and especially when visiting. It is a well known fact that children in most cases leave their manners behind when visiting, much to the discomfiture of the visited. Observation has taught me that children know how to handle the parents in the presence of others when they would take liberties with things not their own. The parents in such cases are made to serve as sort of "stands between," if the expression is allowable. The visits of the children alone would often prove less objectionable.

A few days since a woman came to our place with her seven children, who were all that the term "ill mannered" could be made to mean. Most of the brood entered the house in advance of their mother. Nothing was immune from their rapacious clutches. One went to working the treadle of the sewing machine, to pulling out the drawers and rummaging them; another went for my typewriter cover, which is of glazed metal, with a sharp pointed instrument, and before he could be hindered had made it unsightly with disfiguring marks. A bookcase filled with volumes, some in fancy bindings, caught the eye of another, and he drew up a chair and was in the act of taking them from the shelves, but as he happened to turn his eyes in my direction I looked him down. However, he was not to be deterred from attempting to carry out his own sweet will, and he appealed to his mother. She arose, went to the bookcase, and tried to pull out first one and then another, but as the books were closely crowded she could not manage them. Finally, as if realizing that her acts were a sin against good breeding, she gave the matter over. We did not like to show our visitors any incivility, but it was a great relief when they went away.

This is written with the hope that some may read and realize that only they who observe the proper decorum when visiting will be welcome.

FRANK MONROE BEVERLY.

FREELING, Va., July 9.

Wants of a Pennsylvania Editor.

From the Lewisburg Journal.

My friends, help the editor in his wild eyed search for news. When your wife gives a tea party, if you have recovered from the effects of the gossip drop in with the news; when a baby arrives, fill your pockets with cigars and call; if you go to a party, steal some of the good things and leave 'em with the item in our sanctum; if your wife licks you come in and let us see your scars and tender sympathy through the paper; if your mother-in-law has died, don't be bashful about it; give in all the commonplace news. In short, whatever makes you feel very proud, sad, lonesome or glad submit it to our 24 karat wisdom while we stand on end with gratitude which will pour from every pore like moisture from the dew besprinkled earth.

Free Advertisement of a Cooling Book.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I don't know what "funny story" President Wilson cooled off on, but you try "Sunshine Sketches," by a Canadian (name forgotten at the moment), a professor at McGill University, Montreal.

NEW YORK, July 11. A. B.

A Forthright Philologist.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why all of the flurry concerning the word "kid" as applied to a child? Is it not perfectly plain that the use of the word is correct or else how can we account for kidnap, child stealing? FRANK A. EGAN.

NEW ROCHELLE, July 11.

A Recipe for Long Life.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. J. D. Rockefeller gives several alleged causes of a long life, and as usual, wittingly or unwittingly, omits the chief cause, which is a good bank account.

NEW YORK, July 11. H.

With the Movies.

From the Courier-Journal.

A soldier of the legion lay pierced by foemen's steel,
As things befell,
The lad got well
It made a lovely reel.

Maud Muller in the meadow lot was busy raking hay.
Young people go
To such a show,
Such nearly always pay.

The boy stood on the burning deck: defied a hostile realm.
He knew his trade
And really made
A most exciting film.

The village blacksmith plied his sledge; a scene of peaceful bliss.
And now and then
The worst of men
Like pictures such as this.

SAYS HE'S INVENTED A SAFE AEROPLANE

Christopher Lake's New Flier Won't Upset Nor Drop When Engine Stops.

PUBLIC EXHIBITION SOON

Practical Model of Multiplane Type Has Worked Well, Inventor Asserts.

Christopher J. Lake announced at the Aero Club yesterday afternoon that he had solved the problem of making aeroplanes safe and that he would give a public demonstration of his machine in August at his aerodrome in Bridgeport. It is impossible, he said, for his machine to plunge to the earth, as the present type of aeroplane so frequently does, even when the engine stops. It will glide to the earth slowly and keep an even keel.

The inventor is vice-president of the Lake Torpedo Boat Company, manufacturers of the Lake submarines, and is father of Simon Lake, the inventor of the submarine which bears the family name. He says that in his aeroplane he has applied the same principles which were used in creating stability in the submarine and adds that the problems of under water and air navigation are much the same.

Has Tried It and It Works.

Mr. Lake has already taken out certain patents for the new aeroplane, and others are pending, both in this country and abroad. Until these patents are assured he is unwilling to describe just how he has solved the problem, but he asserts that he has demonstrated the practical efficiency of his device with a full size machine which he has been using at Bridgeport.

If a gust of wind strikes one side of the Lake machine, its inventor says, or if one side falls into an "air hole," the aeroplane will tip slightly and then recover its balance of itself. Because of its even keel in descending the new machine presents a broad surface to the air continually and comes down like a parachute, except that it takes a long glide.

In his experiments with models Mr. Lake suspended a model from a considerable height, bottom upward, and cut the string. The machine righted itself, he says, like a cat and glided down a long air incline to the earth. Dropped sideways also the machine righted itself and sailed down safely.

No Need of High Speed.

Mr. Lake places strong emphasis on the ability of his aeroplane to take the air and stay in the air at reduced speeds. The driver of the type of machine now in use has to have his engine going very fast before the plane will leave the earth at all. Mr. Lake says that his machine will rise at a speed of only a few miles an hour—an easy driving gait. This machine is of the hydro-aeroplane type and is a "multi" with the planes arranged like steps, but his new method will work just as well with monoplanes or biplanes.

FITNESS TO COUNT IN NAVY.

Promotions Not to Be Governed by Seniority Hereafter.

WASHINGTON, July 11.—Secretary Daniels to-day made a radical revision of the regulations governing the examination of Captains coming up for promotion to Rear Admiral. The changes ordered are drastic and in line with the Secretary's policy of making promotions upon positive demonstrations of fitness and adequate past experience rather than upon the basis of seniority and length of service.

Hereafter the examining board will be required to report specifically what has or has not been established in regard to the fitness of candidates as a result of its examination of them.

The board will be required to give the length and character of the sea service and shore duty in the grade from which the candidate seeks promotion and to tell from the records to what degree the candidate has maintained discipline, contentment and interest in their duty among his subordinates both afloat and ashore. It will be required to report on the willingness of the candidate to take responsibility and upon his initiate judgment, thoroughness and resourcefulness as well as upon his professional ability in general and the efficiency of his commands both as regards personnel and material.

The examining board will also be required to show the personal opinion of its members as to the ability of the officer successfully to command a division of a fleet and to say whether such opinion is based on personal knowledge of the candidate and his general reputation in the naval service or whether it is derived from actual records.

In the event the board may not have before it sufficient data from the files of the Navy Department to conform to the requirements of the new order it will be authorized to call on any officer in the navy for testimony.

By a recent decision of Attorney-General McReynolds Secretary Daniels is to have much greater powers of discretion in the matter of promotions. The Attorney General held that acts of Congress requiring promotions to be made on the basis of seniority were not binding on the President in case he considered any officer not fully qualified for advancement.

Secretary Daniels to-day issued an order relieving officers detailed in machine shops or elsewhere in navy yards from the necessity of wearing uniforms on such duty except as special occasion may require. They are directed to wear civilian clothes and the Secretary has made it clear that to his mind the kind of civilian clothes which should be worn are blue overalls.

PAYMENT TO PANAMA HELD UP.

Annual Rental Fee for Canal Zone Several Months Overdue.

WASHINGTON, July 11.—Secretary Bryan admitted to-day he had held up the first annual payment of $250,000 to the Republic of Panama due as the yearly rental fee for the Canal Zone. The Secretary declined to discuss the matter other than to say that he expected it would be arranged satisfactorily in the near future.

The money was due Panama from the United States last February, when the tenth anniversary of the ratification of the treaty occurred. Secretary Knox urged a deficiency appropriation of this sum in the closing days of the Taft Administration so that the United States might meet its obligations.

The appropriation was not made in time for the Taft Administration to make the payment, however. The Republic of Panama has asked for its money now more than four months overdue. It is understood the delay in the promised payment, to which the United States is obligated by treaty, is due to the claims of Colombia regarding the independence of Panama and the occupation of the Canal Zone by the United States.