The Sun

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The New Hapsburg Tragedy.

One more tragedy is added to the sombre record of the house of Hapsburg. To the mystery of Meyerling, the disappearance of JOHN ORTH, the cruel taking off of the Empress ELIZABETH, succeeds the crime by which the Archduke FRANCIS FERDINAND and his wife died yesterday at Sarajevo.

It still lacks more than a month of twenty-five years since the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH was stricken by the death of his only son and heir, Prince RUDOLPH. The intervening years have brought a succession of crushing blows to his family affection and pride in which death has alternated with scandal almost as hard to bear. Now disaster strikes him once more, removing for the second time under appalling circumstances his natural successor, to whom in his aged feebleness he had recently confided many of the cares and burdens of the imperial crown.

Strange to say, the removal of the Archduke FRANCIS FERDINAND may cause a certain relaxation in the politics both of Austria-Hungary and of Europe. His proximate elevation to the throne on his uncle's death was regarded as boding trouble both at home and abroad. His marriage to the Countess CHOTEK, of non-regal lineage, and the birth of two sons threatened a complication in the succession, at least in Hungary. It is true that at the time of his marriage he swore solemnly never to claim the throne for any issue of the union, but it has always been believed that he would seek to evade the obligation when he grasped the reins of power, and it is said that nothing in the Hungarian traditions or constitution would prohibit his sons from following him upon that throne at least. His death, of course, eliminates this possible complication. His rights will now descend unquestioned to his dead brother's son, Archduke CHARLES FRANCIS JOSEPH, a popular young Prince, who has always been technically regarded as "second heir" and also has a son to succeed him.

In international politics FRANCIS FERDINAND had long been regarded as a man of dangerous ambitions. A close ally of the German Kaiser, it had been feared that his ascent to rulership would mean a new outburst of pan-Germanism which would disturb the balance of Europe and wreck the long preserved peace. His death removes this peril. The new heir, though a bright personality and a competent soldier, is not credited with any overweening ideas of Austrian supremacy.

The Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH, an able and patriotic ruler, a devoted servant of his people, will have the deep felt sympathy of the world in the new misfortune that comes to him. It may hardly be that in his frail condition he can long survive the shock. All that can be hoped is that the next reign will bring to Austria as much peace and prosperity as the one now waning to its close.

Mr. John Sharp Williams on His Party's Pledges.

It is a pity that Mr. JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS should lose his head over the attempt of business to make itself heard at Washington. His own account of the shape in which circulars of remonstrance reach him seems to take a good deal of edge off his protests. He says they come with added sentences expressing the personal views of the immediate senders. This being so, what possible objection can there be?

Mr. WILLIAMS's fiery declarations that he and his party would stand the fires of Washington dog days with true Casablanca fortitude until they accomplish all the reforms to which they are pledged would be rather more impressive if they seemed to know themselves just what these reforms are. But they appear to be entirely at sea as to what their pledges call for. This is the only conclusion one can arrive at from their devious and uncertain course.

The Administration began by furnishing to the leaders in the House drafts of certain bills supposed to bear the cachet of orthodoxy. The House after weeks of travail passed a considerably modified version of these measures. The House bills have all in the main been pronounced unfit and impossible since they have reached the Senate. Even while the distinguished Mississippian was launching his thunderbolts Mr. LOUIS D. BRANDEIS was busy transmogrifying one of the texts, that of the Reyburn bill regarding stocks and bonds, into workable shape. It is conceded that when the Senate gets its work done the Administration will be able to recognize its programme only by the thumb prints. Every other feature will be changed.

What is the obligation, then, that holds the Congressional majority in its spell? Is it simply to do something, anything, that will draw the teeth of big business or that will pretend to draw them; that will gratify envy by hamstringing or seeming to hamstring prosperity? Is there a real plan, which the Democratic leaders understand concretely, or are they groping in the dark with a loud noise?

Film and Stage.

The promoters of moving picture enterprises do not find the going as easy everywhere in this country as it happens to be in New York. The censors here have a metropolitan breadth of view and it takes some exhibition as sensational as "The Truth About the White Slave Traffic" to cause them to interfere. In other cities there is greater severity. In Chicago, for instance, many films successful elsewhere have been so amended or changed as to be altogether different from their original production. In two cases plays that had been acted prosperously in Chicago were either wholly transformed or were prohibited when put forward there in the form of picture plays. From one important scenes were omitted on the ground that they represented the charm and profit of gambling. Another was forbidden because it showed the schemes of a master crook and his associates.

Yet both these plays had been given for weeks in dramatic form. When whatever evil there was in them had been made more potent by the use of speech as well as an appeal to the sense of sight their continued representation had not been interfered with. Once they were thrown on the screens, however, as picture drama their teachings became so harmful that for the sake of public morality they had to be radically altered or prohibited.

Of course there is no way of following the ratiocinations of a moving picture board of censors. Their conclusions may pass out of the ordinary line of judgment. Their standards seem altogether their own. Why evil, allowing that it be evil, may be permissible in the spoken drama and not in the film plays it is not easy to explain. Perhaps if there were a board of stage censors in every State the dramas that to them seem evil might not be tolerated. That, however, is a possibility which even the most optimistic lover of the theatre can only "view with alarm."

It is probable that the eccentricities of the moving picture censors have done much to make any other censors of amusements out of the question in this country.

The Infallible Guess.

Our Democratic friends at Washington made a guess as to the yield of the income tax. The returns impolitely refuse to corroborate their guess. Now the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is to have an extra $500,000 to try to prove that the guess was correct. The guess is become an irrecusable fact in the official mind.

When it was proposed that the maximum of exemption should be $5,000 one Treasury expert estimated that 282,620 persons would have to pay. Another Treasury expert guessed 412,360. Admirable precision!

Whatever the number of taxpayers under the actual law, the amount of their collective payments must equal the guess figures. If it doesn't Congress will have to appropriate more money to "vindicate" the guess. Possibly the stern and igniferous McADOO will have to recommend the use of thumbscrews and the boot.

What Ails Baseball?

With CLARK GRIFFITH announcing that CONNIE MACK is a "cheap skate," the magnates of organized baseball bemoaning the present condition and prospects of the game, the players dissatisfied with their contracts, and discouraging reports of attendance from half a dozen or more towns, it seems to be pretty well established that something is wrong with the professional game. Everybody's nerves are on edge and the situation promises to become more mixed as the season wears on.

Is it beyond probability that the public has had an overdose of baseball? Not an overdose of playing, but of the legalities and technicalities of the business; of quarrels between owners, suits for the restraint of players, threats of retaliation and winter long wrangles between this and that interest. Abuse of the Federal League and of the players who have signed its contracts, for one thing, has become very tiresome, and it is not the only factor at work to lessen public enthusiasm.

Nobody has forgotten the eminent player whose lack of the power of speech justified his popular nickname. He was dumb as a clam. It would not be an altogether bad thing if his habitual silence were imitated by some of the directors of the commercial end of the sport in the immediate future.

Carranza's Attack on Carothers.

To sometime Consular Agent GEORGE C. CAROTHERS is given the glory of adding a new twist to the somewhat tortuous course of American diplomacy in serving the cause of humanity in Mexico.

To the superficial observer it has appeared in the recent past that the Administration was making the most of its relations with General HUERTA, whether militant or pacificatory, to advance the cause of General CARRANZA. In the language of sport, the Government seemed to have picked him for a winner and to be in no wise delicate about helping along his chances. Now we have it on the authority of the favorite apparent—who presumably ought to know—that he was not the real favorite at all, but that through the "confidential agent," Mr. CAROTHERS, the United States was really assuring General VILLA that if he thought fit to stab his First Chief in the back he could rely upon the sympathy and support of Washington.

The indiscreet frankness of General CARRANZA in laying bare the secrets of the situation with a plainness of speech worthy of GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS himself has caused consternation in and about the State Department, according to the news despatches. The ingratitude of General CARRANZA, who seems to be almost as unmanageable as HUERTA when it comes to a pinch, is naturally most disappointing. His refusal to be a catspaw upsets all calculations.

Apparently it is beginning to be perceived through the grape juice medium that the Mexican problem is not as simple as it seemed. The removal of General HUERTA will not solve it. Already a new muddle is in full development and this country is mixed up therein in a way that does it no credit. Whether Mr. CAROTHERS is really playing the part of fomenter of mischief and whether he is acting on his own responsibility or by orders from Mr. BRYAN may be open questions. But there remains no question whatever that something in his course, be it only foolish blundering or be it deliberate intrigue, has awakened extreme suspicion of him and of the United States in the breast of our supposed ally.

Clearing the Streets.

A large number of automobile owners have found it convenient to use the streets in front of their garages as annexes to their quarters, with the result that the highways have been increasingly obstructed by cars awaiting calls or undergoing repairs. It is this practice that has forced the authorities to take vigorous action to clear the streets, with the result that forty-seven vehicles were seized on Saturday and impounded. The owners of all except eight cars redeemed them by payment of the usual fees.

The eight cars that were left in the yard were taxicabs, whose owners declare that they were properly occupying a public cab stand from which the authorities had no right to take them. This case will go to the courts. If the owners are right the city employees are guilty of a blunder, but it in no way impeaches the propriety of the campaign they have begun to end what in some parts of town amounts to a great nuisance. There is no reason why motor cars should be allowed to occupy the public highways to the inconvenience of citizens generally, and there is ample legal authority for the course adopted in dealing with this intrusion on the common rights.

The private cab stands have already been abolished, and the end of private occupancy of the streets for storage purposes is in sight.

Another Conspiracy.

The Hon. WILLIAM PROBASCO FRANCIS, the weather warlock of Elmont, L. I., has discovered the cause of the high cost of living. It is "the great total eclipse series that takes place every 703 years."

To this baleful conspiracy of the sun and moon the falcon eyes of the Department of Psychology must turn.

Speaking, however, merely as laymen and with all veneration for the Elmont savant, we venture to assert that no eclipse, partial or total, of the moon can impoverish the inexhaustible reservoirs of moonshine and luny reserves at Washington.

It appears that it is no more safe for a Governor or a Mayor to dash along a much travelled road at fifty miles an hour than for any plain ordinary speed maniac who would be haled to court and fined for it.

Apparently JOHNSON should have knocked MORAN out, instead of winning the bout between them on points. The suspicion is unavoidable that a desire to make a longer exhibition for the motion pictures had much to do with his failure to end the contest early in its history. But the pictures of the black loafing for twenty rounds against a competitor plainly not in his class can scarcely be worth watching. Even the familiar Western "dramas" of the movies are preferable to this.

The betting showed how lightly MORAN's chances were regarded by the men best equipped to judge of them. Yet it is not suggested that any other white could have entered the ring against JOHNSON with a better chance of success. Indeed, there are no impressive heavyweight fighters to-day except JOHNSON, and there is no present opportunity or machinery for their development. JOHNSON seems assured of his title for several years to come, or until he has had time to ruin his remarkable body by his own efforts.

If the mysteries of disease and the secrets of health be beneficently revealed in the near future it will be only fair to recognize that it is not the superwealth of our national Government nor yet that of the States that has provided the ammunition for the quest of supreme importance to humanity. It might be interesting to speculate on what would happen if all the money now spent on trust hunting and muckraking were diverted to the purposes of the Rockefeller Institute.

POL PLANCON, the distinguished French basso who is dying in Paris, belonged to the company at the Metropolitan when it represented the aristocracy of the operatic world. He was associated there with LILLIAN NORDICA, the American soprano whose artistic career ended only a few weeks ago with her death in Java. One need recall only the representations of "Les Huguenots" in which they were concerned to recognize the character of performance that it was possible to give in an age of great singers. JEAN and EDOUARD DE RESZKE, VICTOR MAUREL, MARCELLA SEMBRICH, LILLIAN NORDICA and POL PLANCON used to sing together in that opera like the evening stars. Such a distribution of roles in MEYERBEER's old work could not now be secured by any amount of money. The special distinction that M. PLANCON imparted to every performance was his ability to represent French lyric art in its highest estate.

"I determined to take upon myself the responsibility for this statement," says the Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS, the Athenian Diplomatic Gusher, talking some more about his Albanian flood of words. This is generous and fortunate. It vastly simplifies the duty of the State Department.

Women will vote in 1917, says CHAMP CLARK.—*Headline.*

This is so sudden! The women must wonder whether the amiable CHAMP is only a flirt or really means it.

"I know what it means to lose your nerve. I lost mine," said JAMES H. MAURER, president of the Pennsylvania Federal Convention of Labor, in testifying before the United States Commission on Industrial Relations. No one would have suspected the loss from the other utterances of this shining light of unionism, who, incidentally, denounced the present as an "idiotic age." Out of his superior wisdom he defended armed violence by labor unionists in retaliation for their wrongs and placed the blame of the McNamara dynamite outrage on the "individualism" of civilization. His remedy for all existing evils was confiscation of everything in sight for the benefit of the workers. One wonders how far his programme would have gone if he had not lost his nerve.

New fight for BOUCK WHITE.—*Headline.*

Oh, well, he won't object. He belongs to the church militant.

It is astonishing to find Erie commuters getting into a white heat over the conditions of cars and such trifles. They were believed to be "house broke" and case hardened. Opaque windows, dusty seats and prehistoric cigar butts were supposed to pass as ordinary hazards of the rail. Whether their belated revolt will work them any profit is a riddle no man may venture to guess. It is not wholly impossible that as a remedy for filthy cars an enlightened management may decide to substitute no cars at all.

THE CATASTROPHE HAZARD.

Remarks on the Possible Operation of the Workmen's Compensation Law.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The newspaper reports and editorial comments upon the public spirited action of the Merchants Association in giving a hearing on the compensation law all seem to have missed a point which appealed to me. I have waited to see if some one would say something about it. I listened as the representative of a manufacturing company whose light machinery, sewing and circular knitting machines are held by the commission in sending it notices to be in Group 38.

Mr. Dwight was very able and very fair in presenting the case of the stock companies. That interest, however, was further represented by hecklers and claqueurs, who were not so fair.

Mr. Train was equally capable and decent in talking for the mutual insurance plan. He must have astonished the other insurance men, though, by uncovering so frankly the secrets of the game. He admitted so much about the adequacy of the compensation premium rates and the probable profits of the business that the eyes of the merchants assembled must have been somewhat opened.

Mr. Train on the much vaunted "catastrophe hazard" was iconoclastically illuminating. His calm assurance that the compensation law was not nearly so bad as some people seemed to think was backed by two mathematical demonstrations which the merchants and the chroniclers, as I have said, did not appear to appreciate.

He figured that the Binghamton catastrophe, under the provisions of the compensation law, could be taken care of, continuing obligations and all, by a capitalization of a little more than $100,000. Outside of a catastrophe the extreme possibility of loss would be for the death of a workman whose weekly wage would be the maximum of $100 a week, and who should leave a widow at the youngest age possible to have three children 1, 2 and 3 years old. This loss, Mr. Train said, could be met by a capitalization of a little over $12,000.

Professor Baldwin, who spoke for the State fund under circumstances of disadvantage which he explained, made a very good impression with his evident sincerity and his complete knowledge of his subject. His greatest disadvantage, which he did not mention, was in the fact that his official position compelled him to take the hecklers seriously when he knew that they were swinging catch questions at him which they did not take seriously themselves.

He knew and they knew more about the real merits of the matter than even Mr. Train's figures had shown. He knew and they knew that even if a catastrophe should occur early in the history of the State fund's administration its income and resources would permit the handling of the obligations entailed beyond the slightest doubt. The "immediate" obligations would find sufficient provision ready because "immediate" in this case means two full weeks to begin with for the obligation to accrue. Then no one could complain if a few days more were required to pass upon claims and to arrange for the payment of the compensation. By that time there would be ample funds for these payments in hand. The "continuing" obligations would hardly present any problem in view of what we learned in Mr. Train's revelations concerning the margin in the premium rates for expenses and profits.

It is well to avoid getting excited and to wait for a near view of the bugbears set up to frighten the superficial observer. I am quite unable to take seriously all this talk about the bugbear of "catastrophe hazard." Of course, if there is another flood a lot of us will get pretty wet. But, even at that, there will be more of us saved than in Noah's time, for we have so many more big boats.

NEW YORK, June 27. WILLIS HOLLY.

Life on Eastern Long Island.

From the Seaside Times.

Herman Weiner of Washington street has installed an electric motor to run his peanut roaster.

Contractor Frank McErlane has completed decorating the exterior and interior of Dannie McClain's cafe.

Addison Topping's family and the Ward family picnicked at Noyac Beach on Wednesday.

The many friends of Henry Schenck, who mistook potash for lemonade last week, will be glad to learn that he is improving nicely.

Mrs. Eliza Beaman visited relatives and friends in Easthampton last Sunday, but returned home in time to take her place in the choir for the evening services.

Horse Sense.

First Horse—Tough work, eating out of nose bags.

Second Horse—Yes, they must take us for militant suffragettes.

THE PRAISE OF WOMEN.

A Wolverine Bachelor's Tender Lay in Behalf of Marriage.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One loses patience at those who claim that the movement is wrecking homes and the institution of matrimony.

The subject must be approached broad-mindedly and not in a jaundiced and dyspeptic mood, and bachelors should not in the least lose confidence. No real man is a misogynist, for not to like women is not to be a man. The American housekeeper is still the best in the world. In comfort, in smooth running of household machinery, in good food and drink, in lavish and luxurious hospitality, we are nowadays in a class by ourselves in the matter of housewifery. One may be no longer a constant worshipper at the shrine of blue eyes, pink cheeks, golden hair, and the enshrouding mystery of skirts which make for curiosity and reverence in youth, but one knows that the best women are much nobler than the best men and that the best men may still kneel to the best women. Heroines and angels among women fortify themselves in sanctuaries to which very few if any men have the key. Every good girl has the making of a heroine; all she needs is the opportunity.

I am a bachelor, but I don't believe that marriages are less popular than formerly. Some of my married friends think that nothing but selfishness keeps me from entering the married state, and it is in vain that I tell them that I must wait for Cupid. Marriage is not purely a business proposition; there is the spiritual as well as the practical side to be considered. I do love beautiful things, things that are fine and spiritual and can see other ends than those that are purely material. But I am also as practical as you please and do not believe that imagination and practicalness conflict but can exist in one and the same person.

It is of course too bad that so many bachelor girls are born to blush unseen and waste their sweetness on the desert air. And the bachelor men, think what they are missing! There is one thing absolutely necessary for a happy union and that is love, that mysterious "something," that divine flame which only death shall quench. A good wife is heaven's best gift to man, for after all what mission in this world can supersede that of the wife and mother who holds high her husband's honor and loves her children and their welfare better than all the outside honors the world can bestow? The great proportion of all marriages of the present day is successful.

And it stands to reason, for men and women are becoming wiser and more refined through the cumulative force of truth and love.

My married friends tell me that if the unmarried folk really knew what a world of tenderness and devotion is felt, lived and expressed toward each other among husbands and wives of the present day they would be rather more eager than otherwise to enter the holy state of matrimony, and that in the home one finds, or should find, mutuality, reciprocity, co-operation and service.

It is freely admitted that this is all very true, but the all absorbing question is: Where shall we find our soul mates?

One does not feel like taking Dan Cupid to task in the matter, although he is somewhat mischievous. But he certainly has a great many happy conquests to his credit. Perhaps, after all, one must have patience, be in a receptive mood, of good cheer, and somewhere, some time, his own will come to him. Think of the joys of existence unspeakably sweet when we get to the turn of the road!

GEORGE W. AMBROSE

BAYSHORE, Mich., June 25.

TEACHING SWIMMING.

What Tanks in all the Public Schools Might Do.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I thoroughly agree with your correspondent who says that the remedy is at hand to save the 90 per cent. of public school graduates which his census showed were unable to swim. I would not, however, say "let's have a swimming school week," but let's have swimming hours as frequently as possible during each week of the entire year.

Six thousand to 7,000 lives are lost annually, principally because a great proportion of those drowned could not swim the few necessary strokes to safety.

Several volunteer life saving organizations are now floundering about in an attempt to reduce the awful annual toll of the waters by rescuing the drowning and neglecting the principal cause of the drownings, ignorance.

The wise doctor diagnoses his case and then gets at the cause of the trouble while curing the effect.

Through the efforts of Commissioner Augustus G. Miller of the Board of Education, who is also in charge of the educational branch of the Life Saving Service of the City of New York, I believe our case had already been properly diagnosed when we found that the cause of the 400 to 500 annual drownings in New York city alone was the ignorance of so many school children in self-protection on the water, and, as a result, compulsory swimming instruction has been taken up by the athletic department wherever it is possible for it to use the public baths.

All that is necessary to make the instruction general is a public demand for immediate action on the plan of our service to have swimming tanks installed in all of the public schools.

HENRY E. SMOLEN,
Secretary, Life Saving Service of the City of New York.

NEW YORK, June 27.

The Nashville at Vera Cruz.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I wonder whether the Navy Department is aware that the Nashville has broken a record by remaining for ten months at Vera Cruz without even an excursion into the Gulf. A letter from an officer of this vessel (and not the youngest) says:

The heat here, 103 degrees, combined with the worst humidity I ever experienced, makes any sort of action, even writing, agony. We wonder if Washington intends ever to send us north. Every one is nearly crazy, especially with the awful inactivity.

This is a family letter and not a complaint to headquarters, but it seems a very extraordinary thing that the Nashville has not been relieved months before this date. Does not the Department know, or doesn't it care? HUMANITY.

BOSTON, June 27.

Rediscounting and Collateral Under the New Banking Law.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In lieu of the Claflin failure and that company's outstanding notes of about $30,000,000, and in lieu of the fact that the new central reserve banks will be prevented by law from rediscounting notes when there is collateral security added to the notes, would it not be well to revise this law so that the paper rediscounted could have all the security possible? A bank loaning money to a mercantile firm will not be able to rediscount that note with the reserve bank if it is sweetened with a little collateral security. What bosh! BANKER.

NEW YORK, June 28.

His School.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* President Wilson's character is precisely that of the doctor who said that he would rather the patient should die under his school of treatment than get well under any other. COMMON SENSE.

NEW YORK, June 28.

Aping Our Ancestors.

Terpsichore has got a plan
To see how far she can go.
She makes a monkey of a man
With her orango-tango!

Unless her efforts we forestall,
In bungalows and villas,
We soon shall see the dancers all
Performing tangorillas!

GEORGE B. MOSEWOOD.

IN THE BALKANS.

Prophecy as to the Political Possibilities of Unification of Race and Church.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The establishment of Roman Catholicism as the state church in the kingdom of Servia, reported in THE SUN of June 25, constitutes a great forward step in the unification of the 8,000,000 Serbs-Croats of Slavonic race who dwell on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea. Slightly more than half of these, or 4,650,000, are included in the enlarged kingdom of Servia, which has now won inland Macedonia and the banate of Novibazar from Turkey.

The little kingdom of Montenegro, southwest of Servia on the Adriatic Sea, with 400,000 Greek Orthodox inhabitants, constitutes a second group of the Serbo-Croatian race. A third group, 1,893,000 strong, occupies the Austrian provinces of Bosnia and the Herzegovina west of Servia. Here 25 per cent. of the population are Mohammedans, including the landlord class, whose forefathers apostatized to Mohammedanism to save their estates after the Turks had conquered Bosnia in the fifteenth century. Forty-three per cent. of the population of Bosnia are Greek Orthodox, but as they are the most backward element in Bosnia they are pretty likely to be affected by the movement toward Rome in Servia.

The Roman Catholic element in Bosnia, as yet only 22 per cent., seems destined to increase. Hitherto it has been the one element in Bosnia contented under Austria's rule. But now both race and religion seem destined to draw the Roman Catholic Bosniaks toward Servia. A fourth Serbo-Croatan group occupies the Austrian province of Dalmatia, on the east coast of the Adriatic Sea. Here the population is almost wholly Serb and 84 per cent. Roman Catholic, and has agitated in the past for the union of all the Serbo-Croats of Austria-Hungary into a "kingdom of Illyria." Finally, northwest of Dalmatia and Bosnia, lies the Hungarian crownland of Croatia and Slavonia, which may be termed Hungary's Ireland. Croatia sends representatives to the Hungarian Parliament at Budapest, but enjoys a considerable degree of home rule under its local provincial Diet, which controls local government, religion, education and justice.

Despite this large measure of autonomy the Croats are at feud with the Hungarian Government at Budapest, since they dream of restoring Croatia as an independent kingdom, and thus freeing their country from the Hungarians, who conquered Croatia at the end of the eleventh century. Croatia and Slavonia have a population of 2,619,000 Slavs, of whom 70 per cent. are Roman Catholics. The Croats in their struggle with the Hungarians have openly expressed feelings of sympathy and brotherhood for the Serbs, who speak the same language as their own, and have declared that differences of religion should be overlooked between brother peoples. But these differences have ceased to exist now that Servia has forsworn the Greek Catholic faith and turned Roman Catholic.

Thus the conversion of Servia to Roman Catholicism has increased the possibility of its westward expansion into a kingdom of Illyria in case there should be a break up of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. On the other hand a Roman Catholic Servia becomes the natural satellite of Roman Catholic Austria-Hungary. In any struggle of Servia against the Greek Catholic kingdoms of Greece, Bulgaria or Rumania, Austria would now probably support the Serbs, for any expansion of Austria-Hungary into the Balkan peninsula would merely aggravate the present bitter race struggles in the Austrian and Hungarian Diets. Hence Austria desires no Balkan conquests.

The conversion of Servia to Roman Catholicism will of course have momentous religious consequences. The establishment of the Pope's spiritual supremacy in the Levant, insured by the success of the Crusades, but then blighted by their failure and by the advance of the Ottoman Turks, seems destined to become at least partially a fact. The northern Albanians submitted to Rome's spiritual supremacy and became Roman Catholics in the thirteenth century. Part of the Armenian Church became Roman Catholic in the fifteenth century. In more modern times the Maronites of Mount Lebanon, 70,000 out of 220,000 Nestorian Christians, and a few of the Christian Copts of Egypt have acknowledged the supremacy of the Pope in religious matters. These, with the descendants of Latin Crusaders in Cyprus, the Greek archipelago, and the Greek mainland, and the converts won by Roman Catholic missionaries in Turkey, form a Roman Catholic element of some importance in the Levant. The conversion of Servia to Roman Catholicism is of far more importance since it means the winning of a solid block of territory from the Greek Catholic Church. Should the movement for union with Rome fail, as it failed in Bulgaria during the '70s, the present Servian dynasty of Karageorgevitch would be driven out and the Greek Orthodox King Nicholas of Montenegro would probably unite Servia and Montenegro under the rule of the house of Njegus. E. G. LEMCKE.

ORANGE, N. J., June 27.

THE NEW TYRANNY.

To Protest Against the Bedeviling of Business an Impertinence.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Our Wilson-Bryan Administration seems to regard any suggestion, petition or protest from the business interests of the country in their dire extremity as an impertinence, as great an impertinence as if an expert electrician should timidly offer a suggestion to a professor of Greek and should dare to differ with him as to the safest way to run a thousand horse-power dynamo.

The Wilson-Bryan Administration says in effect to the industries of the country: "Shut up, you are a bloated lot of railroad, factory and mining magnates, who are after the dollars. You are producing a fictitious business depression to throw discredit on our beneficent policies, and at a time when we are assuming a wise supervision over the affairs of all creation, including the moral character of President Huerta. We are going to investigate you, legislate against you, regulate you, and if we choose draw and quarter you, and you are to take your medicine and keep your mouths shut as people do in Russia."

And this is the "new freedom"!

A WICKED BUSINESS MAN.

NEW YORK, June 28.

The Tender Hearted Walrus.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When the business men of the country asked for consideration and President Wilson told them their trouble was merely psychological, he must have thought of Lewis Carroll's verse describing the walrus when the oysters begged him not to eat them:

"I weep for you," the walrus said,
"I deeply sympathize."
With sobs and tears he sorted out
Those of the largest size,
Holding his pocket handkerchief
Before his streaming eyes.

BOSTON, June 27.

Life the Master.

Fain would I make a comrade of my life,
Waking each morn to find companionship,
Draining Fate's chalice with an eager lip,
Finding joy after grief, peace after strife.
Fain would I see a clear, straight way ahead,
Where in the open I might meet each foe,
Whence, loser, victor, I may onward go,
Choosing my way, not blinded and not led.

But life is not a friend, a master he,
Unkindly, merciless and full of guile,
Full oft my trust betraying with a smile,
Holding me bound when most I would be free;
Yet I must walk with him, hand clasped in hand,
Unknowing where he leads me, to what land.

NINETTE M. LOWATER.

MAYORS TO JOIN FOR FRANCHISE FIGHTS

Public Utilities Research Bureau May Offset Work of Corporations.

MITCHEL IS INTERESTED

Intercity Organization to Be Perfected at Meeting in Philadelphia.

A coalition of cities, regardless of size, is being organized under the leadership of Mayor Mitchel, Mayor Rudolph Blankenburg of Philadelphia, Mayor Harrison of Chicago, Mayor Baker of Cleveland and Mayor Shroyer of Dayton so that in fights against public utility corporations in the future the cities will have an agent as fully equipped with knowledge of the situation as the corporations.

It is planned to hold a nationwide conference of cities some time next fall, when a bureau of public utilities research will be formed. The conference will be held in Philadelphia, and according to the announcement sent out by Mayor Blankenburg the Mayors of the five cities leading in the work of organization will be present. Letters are being sent out now to Mayors of practically every city in the country inviting participation, and it is expected that the conference will be strongly supported.

The basic idea underlying the formation of the new bureau is the accumulation of technical knowledge bearing upon the inner workings of public utility corporations. Mayor Blankenburg argues that heretofore in every fight before a public service commission the cities have been represented by men not fully familiar with the subjects, while the side of the corporations has been presented by the best informed and most able men in the country.

"If the cities do not join together for the presentation of their cases as the public utility companies have the laws and precedents established by the commission stand in danger of being biassed by the able arguments of the representatives of these corporations," says Mayor Blankenburg in his letter to the Mayors.

"The equipment required for the adequate presentation of the rights and interests of the people involves a degree and extent of technical knowledge and information which it is not practicable for any one city to obtain. This knowledge or information is much the same for each city, and its cumulative use would greatly add to its value. It must be borne in mind that the utility companies constitute themselves an offensive and defensive alliance probably stronger than any other interest in this country. Its weakest member is never without information and assistance of every kind.

"To this end we are preparing to form a permanent organization of this character. We are confident that the result will be a great step forward in the matter of securing a proper presentation of the people's side in utility cases."

Philadelphia has a fight against its electric lighting company, and it is planned that the knowledge gained during the investigation preceding argument in this matter before the Philadelphia Public Service Commission will be the first obtained by the new bureau. Mayor Blankenburg has been interviewed on the subject and he says that it is his idea that the new bureau will be used as a clearing house for public utility information.

"The idea grew out of our own difficulties in acquiring information to help us in this fight," said Mayor Blankenburg. "The public utility corporations have very efficient associations for the exchange of experience, information and resources, and we want to provide an organization for the cities that will do for people all over the United States what these associations are doing for the public utility corporations.

"The new bureau will be at the service of all citizens and Mayors and public officials everywhere, and of course the more it is used the more its value will increase."

No officers have yet been elected, nor have the details of organization been worked out. Mayor Blankenburg's announcement says that every city heard from so far has given enthusiastic support to the suggestion. For the present the bureau is being financed privately.

$9,000,000 LOSS IN BABIES.

City Facing It This Summer, Says Welfare Association.

Valuing the life of a baby at $2,000, the Babies Welfare Association estimates that New York city will suffer an economic loss of $9,000,000 in the next three months unless more funds are forthcoming to cut down the sacrifice of infant lives in the hot weather.

The valuation of a baby has been obtained by deducting the average cost of rearing a child from the average earnings of an adult during an average lifetime. Figuring on this basis it has been estimated that in 1912 New York city lost more than $55,000,000, which was decreased in 1913 to $40,000,000. To accomplish this result the city spent only $200,000.

Even in parts of the city where rents are high and parents well to do the infant death rate is much higher than it should be, the association asserts.

"It is believed that measures should be taken to make these mothers understand that infant welfare work is not a charity," says the baby week committee, "but a measure of intelligent self-interest on the part of the city at large. The better class mother should feel no more hesitation over visiting a milk station or other educational centre than she would over sending her children to the public school."

As a result of the survey made during babies' week the association says that at least $1,000,000 should be spent each year to cut down infant mortality.

AHEARN URGES SANE FOURTH.

"Merriment Is Better Than Mourning," Says State Fire Marshal.

A safe and sane Fourth of July is being urged by State Fire Marshal Ahearn, who appeals for a combined attack on the annual record of fire and noise.

"A strong effort should be made toward leading all our people into more modern and instructive forms of celebration," he says. "The use of explosives should be limited to public parks during fixed hours of the day, and they should be safeguarded while awaiting their discharge. The firing off among closely built, shingle roofed frame houses should be absolutely forbidden. The discharge or firing of fireworks and other pyrotechnic displays and the storage of such dangerous articles should be entirely regulated by ordinance under the supervision of local fire chiefs. Permits should be issued only after inspection of the premises by fire chiefs."

Marshal Ahearn asks that buckets of water be kept ready by householders for use in putting out small fires. "It is far better to plan for the saving of life and property before loss occurs than afterward," he says. "Merriment is better than mourning."