The Sun.

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What Will President Wilson Do?

The amount appropriated by the second session of the Sixty-third Congress for the support of the Government from June 30, 1914, to July 1, 1915, was $1,116,118,138. This sum exceeds by $27,000,000 the total appropriations for 1913-14, as given by the statisticians of the Appropriations Committees of the House and Senate. And yet this enormous draft on the taxpayers does not measure the ambition and appetite of the Democrats, who exerted all their strength to increase it by $33,000,000 in the infamous river and harbor bill.

Since the adjournment of Congress there have come from Washington numerous intimations that the President is content with the reformatory legislation he has obtained, and that from now on his energy will be spent in directing the operation of the new laws. Even were Mr. WILSON anxious for new measures of general legislation, the short session of the Sixty-third Congress would offer little opportunity for their enactment. Thus the reputed disposition of the President and the limitations of time unite to promise that until March 4 the deliberations of the members will be devoted almost entirely to the appropriation bills.

Congress will reassemble at the moment when the incidence of the new taxes imposed this fall is first being generally felt. It will find the nation deeply stirred over the question of national defence, to which we are warned by qualified authorities that great sums of money must be dedicated in the immediate future if we are to make a pretence of protecting ourselves adequately. And yet it is freely and confidently predicted that before March 4 is reached two pork bills will be passed, one lavishly endowing the rivers and harbors of the country, the other scattering public buildings with a generosity hitherto unequalled.

Under these circumstances the taxpayers await with more than ordinary concern the delivery of the address which Mr. WILSON is now preparing. They wonder whether he intends to ignore the extravagance and waste that oppresses them. They have looked in vain to the law makers for reasonable caution in the expenditure of their money. They have found the Congress attentive to only one voice. There has been forced on their recognition the fact that the President and the President alone can save them from the exploiters of his own party who hold their pledges in contempt and greet the protests of the country with contempt and derision.

Will Mr. WILSON stand for the tax payers or for the tax eaters?

The Federal Advisory Council.

Now that the preliminaries of making the Federal reserve banks a part of the country's commercial and financial machinery have been completed the directors of the banks are doing well to proceed with the election of members of the Federal Advisory Council. In the choice of Mr. J. P. MORGAN the New York reserve bank has made a most promising contribution to this body. It is a selection which will inspire widespread confidence and sets the standard of membership so high as to guarantee that the council will not be a fifth wheel in the Federal reserve coach.

Provision for the advisory council was one of the most effective safeguards of banking and currency reform included in the Federal reserve act. Now that the whole broad field of new banking policy is being broken for the first time the assistance which the council can render to the Federal Reserve Board may be very great.

According to the terms of the Federal reserve act the sole power which the council will have is indicated by its name. It can only give advice, but practically every subject of Federal Reserve Board concern affecting the public relations of the new bank is placed under this advisory jurisdiction.

The council is to consist of one member from each of the twelve reserve districts, and while the office will be purely honorary the council can become an honorable body indeed if it is composed of capable men of sound judgment, large experience in banking and general business, thoroughly acquainted with American customs and conditions and tolerably well informed in foreign affairs. Such a council will be able to instruct public opinion and enlist it in support of the policies which must govern the management of the Federal reserve machinery if the hopes of banking and currency reform are to be realized.

It is going to take all the courage and strength of the Federal Reserve Board to resist importunities for unwise action, either in a time of great economic strain like the present or at any time when surrender to political influences is urged upon it. Already the board is receiving protests from borrowing sections of the country against discount rates which do not promote credit expansion and against rulings which do not stipulate recourse to the rediscount facilities of the reserve institutions. The advisory council can always sustain the board against pressure of this kind, which on account of the political atmosphere of Washington will always be difficult to resist.

More than that, the council can support the board against any effort to make the Federal reserve system a mere annex to the Treasury. Of such an effort there are already signs.

It is to be expected that Treasury views of finance and business will contain a large political adulteration. It is not too much to expect that the Federal Reserve Board will seek to keep itself free from entanglements with the administration of the Treasury, in which the political factor is so important. A strong Federal Advisory Council should be of great help to the board in withstanding Treasury aggressions on its independence.

Why Not Try an Honest Election Law?

At present the voters of New York select candidates and fill offices under primary and election laws that impose on them a tremendous and unnecessary burden of cost and labor. This result has been achieved through the conscious efforts of law makers whose first purpose has invariably been to score off the other fellows, and whose second object was to seem to give substantial benefit to the electors without in fact doing anything of the sort. The inevitable outcome of the bi-partisan insincerity and greed that have inspired election legislation is the grossly expensive and unintelligible balloting system that prevails to-day.

The contradictions and defects of the law as it stands have attracted the attention of Governor-elect WHITMAN, and he promises a revision of the statute. Unhappily for the public, this revision is to be partisan, in the interest of the Republican machine now a-building. Its general significance may be deduced from the fact that one detail of its comprehensive scheme provides for the relief of the up-State districts from the needless and costly supervision of the Superintendent of Elections while perpetuating that officer's jurisdiction in this city. That is, the Whitman reform of the election law displays as one of its conspicuous objects a return to the conditions of inequality which were established when the Metropolitan Elections District was erected for exclusively partisan purposes and benefits.

Obviously a recasting of the election law undertaken in this spirit will bring about no permanent good. It simply invites partisan retaliation whenever opportunity offers, while the advantages won by such means are beneath contempt when the public approval that might be won by an honest revision of the statute are contemplated.

A Threat to Be Met Now.

The crusade against public order and private property which assumed threatening proportions last winter and has been marked by several bomb outrages this fall has again entered on the rhetorical stage, with several alien agitators enthusiastically engaged in fomenting strife and urging assaults on property and its possessors. The industrial depression here makes the field inviting, while conditions in Europe have made the promotion of revolutions a dangerous calling. We may therefore expect a concentration in the United States this winter of these organizers of dissatisfaction and exploiters of misfortune which will require prompt and effective measures of repression by the authorities.

In this city the mistake was made last year of permitting the propaganda of robbery and murder to go unchecked until its dupes, encouraged by the supine attitude of public officials as much as they were by the incitements of their own leaders, raided public edifices, filled the streets with marching columns and generally comported themselves in a manner justifying the utmost anxiety as to the outcome of the movement.

With the plain lessons taught by the experience of the past twelve months in mind, it is incredible that the authorities should again endanger the community by a toleration that defeats its purpose and invites the most serious consequences. The time is highly inauspicious for lenity toward the professional anarchists, the advocates of looting as a means of livelihood and the enemies of government. The authorities will confer no favor on any section or division of society by displaying at this time a sentimental weakness or a misdirected sympathy.

"Unthrifty Games."

The passion for professional football, a game whereon even the philosophical Mr. BALFOUR is said to love to look, has been supposed to interfere seriously with recruiting in Great Britain. Prohibition of it by Parliament has even been suggested. A London journal is going to bury the odious and beloved sport in obscurity, so far as its readers are concerned, by not reporting the matches. It seems a queer proposal, even if other newspapers should adopt it. Robbed of the glory of print, will the players seek that of war? Is the pleasure of the inveterate spectator spoiled if he can't read about what he has seen and howled over?

The complaint is old, like most other things. Under the feudal system, though England seems to have forgotten it, Englishmen from 15 to 60 were subject to conscription. For centuries after the statute of Winchester in 1285 the whole male population of armbearing age was liable to be called out for military service and made to train therefor, presenting itself with helmet, hauberk, sword and horse, helmet, hauberk and sword, and so on, according to a pecuniary standard, down to the simple bowmen, who were for so many years the strength of English armies; and the nobles had their tilts and tournaments.

Statutes of many later reigns repeated or modified these requirements. Some prescribed military training on Sundays and holidays. But beer and skittles interfered with martial exercises. Why not, when you could get a gallon of table beer for a cent? "Unthrifty games," "unlawful games" were denounced or prohibited by Parliament. Tennis and kyles (ninepins), "cleish" or "closh," some now unknown form of bowl or ball, let alone the tavern diversion of the dice, were hammered indignantly by act of Parliament, which in those days often contained dissertations on morality and sociology. The English had the reputation on the Continent of being an unruly and a fierce people; but playing on the village green attracted them more than playing at war or shooting at the butts.

Honest Hodge was much the same as he is now. Therefore the present day should not be too hard with him.

The Quest of Crocker Land.

Whether or not there is a large body of land in the Arctic somewhere north of Cape Thomas Hubbard, Crocker Land, so named by Admiral PEARY, seems to be a myth. Gazing north from an altitude of 1,500 feet, PEARY saw, at a distance he calculated to be 130 miles, what looked like a high ridge of land. To show so far off, even in the clear light of that latitude, the object seen would have an altitude of more than 2,000 feet. Our impression is that icebergs never reach such a height. If that is the fact Admiral PEARY was either deceived by a mirage or land was actually seen by him. At any rate, on the strength of his report the MacMillan expedition to verify it was fitted out.

Word now comes that DONALD B. MACMILLAN and Ensign FITZHUGH GREEN, the engineer and physicist of the expedition, in a "dash" over the ice of 123 miles from Cape Thomas Hubbard failed to find Crocker Land. It is significant, as bearing upon Admiral PEARY'S report, that MACMILLAN and his companion were sure at one stage of their journey that land was in front of them, but they were the victims of a mirage. When they finally stopped there was nothing that looked like Crocker Land as far as they could see to the north. Thus ends an enterprise elaborately arranged and intelligently carried out by one of Admiral PEARY'S ablest lieutenants.

The luckless Stefansson expedition had a similar objective, what was called an Arctic continent; but in this case various oceanographic phenomena were the basis of hope. STEFANSSON had visions of encountering Eskimos who had never seen men of their own race or white men. We do not believe that MACMILLAN'S failure, or the loss of the Karluk, with all it meant to STEFANSSON and BARTLETT, will discourage other explorers who have faith that more land exists in the great Arctic basin. Other expeditions will be fitted out, for there are good scientific reasons for believing that the map of the Arctic regions has not been completed.

At His Old Tricks.

Irredeemable irresponsibility is the prime trait of Mr. BRYAN'S political character. In his rare official hours he is still primarily unofficial. Years of tireless output of words have not abated the industry of his tongue and pen. A Bedouin of the tents of Chautauqua, he is independent of the Democratic chief or tribe.

So when Mr. BRYAN, out of the plenitude of his unwisdom, seeks to make prohibition and woman suffrage, both by constitutional amendment, principles of the national Democracy, a polite smile or a shrug is the natural comment. The accomplished actor must "take the stage." The itinerant lecturer must advertise himself. The spoiled child must break out into tantrums. It's only Mr. BRYAN.

A little trying to the patience of the Administration, in which he is the titular Secretary of State, but what can't be cured must be endured.

From long habit Mr. BRYAN seems to imagine that he is the leader of the Democratic party. The leadership, we might almost say the ownership, of that party is in infinitely abler hands. Mr. BRYAN'S performances remind the cynical of the clown who bangs his toes with the dumbbells trying to imitate the feats done by the basaltic biceps of the real athlete.

Without ordering an "ascension robe" or dreaming of too speedy a millennium, may it not be hoped that the wars of the future will be fought solely by professors, perhaps the most ferocious warriors of the present?

When the assassins take to killing each other there ought to be a fair chance for the police to sift a few more candidates for death from the survivors.

No politician can delay prosperity, says CHAMP CLARK.—*Headline.*

One politician has realized his limitations.

To-morrow the cat show. Dogs have a multitude of friends, but the more or less reformed tigers, with "elastic and rebellious hair," as BAUDELAIRE sang, are perhaps the favorites of the poets. Graceful, epicurean, bohemian, mysterious and splendid of eye, dainty of person, a passionate serenader, a child of night, a watcher of the fire, flattering and fickle, quick of anger, the cat is the familiar of bards. It has the poetic temperament and is subject to fits.

When a hospital staff asserts its rights by resigning in a body, what becomes of the rights of the patients? Are they all condensed in the single right to die in peace?

The Army and Navy game was according to form and expectation. It was nobly lost and nobly won. There are no finer fellows than these young Grants and Farraguts, and their football battle is in some ways the most brilliant spectacle in the American almanac of sports. It is possible that the Army has at present an unfair advantage. After the defeats of Mr. BRYAN the Hon. JOSEPHUS DANIELS used to betake himself, didn't he? to his lodge of sorrow in the Dismal Swamp. He may have acquired the effect and habit of a hoodoo, in spite of the photographic smiles with which he adorns his early Mecklenburg old Roman lineaments.

The cabled announcement that Mokuaweoweo, the great crater of Mauna Loa, is in violent eruption verifies approximately the effort at forecasting volcanic activity made by Professor JAGGAR in the "Report of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory" given to the public last spring. After the painstaking study which he and Mr. PERRET made touching Hawaiian volcanic conditions Professor JAGGAR concluded that Mokuaweoweo was due for a spell of activity in February, 1915. The eruption anticipates the prophecy by three months or so, but really this indicates very close guessing when it is considered that the period since the last outbreak was in the neighborhood of twelve years. On the whole, this is the best calculation so far made as to volcanic activity, and it seems to indicate progress and utility in the near future in this branch of scientific work.

All is not lost to Belgium. YSAYE has saved his violins, which under his touch are the delight of the world.

The Americans who were stranded in London at the beginning of the war are reported in a letter from London as having repaid all but $250 of $265,000 lent to them in the crisis at the beginning of the war. This is a fine showing. It is not so much a matter of solvency as of honor, but both are vindicated. Indeed, looking back at the embarrassment to which American tourists with first class credits were subjected, in the light of present conditions, one cannot but be amazed and disgusted at the foolish panic which cut off their supplies of money.

Mexico is surely the land of wonders; anything may happen there. ZAPATA maintaining order and guarding property makes the case of the made over VILLA seem simple and natural.

War over by Ascot week, says a [British] expert.—*Headline.*

Evidently a sound friend of sport if the shakiest of prophets.

SMALLER COINS NEEDED.

Fractional Cents to Help Bring Down the Cost of Living.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When meat costs your butcher one-half cent more per pound he charges you a full cent advance. When it costs him one-half cent less per pound he does not lower his price to you. The article for which you for instance pay 37 cents per pound is sold you at 19 cents per half pound and at 10 cents per quarter pound. While the retailer might for reason prefer selling this article only in full pounds, he is ready and willing to sell in desired lesser quantities if his customers so demand. Whether his customers so demand is a matter of individual need or means beyond control.

While the retailer buys his desired quantity of this or that other article at the ruling market price of so or so many cents and eighth, quarter or half cent per pound, yard, &c., he nevertheless charges you full cents when you patronize him.

He is compelled to, because our currency has no circulating coin smaller than the one cent piece. True, the cent often is not considered of value in itself, but the fraction of a cent here with another there in the numberless retail purchases daily would total to an astonishing sum, and the annual total for our total population would be millions of dollars. In this way the purchasing public pays millions annually for which no value is given them simply because of a defective currency system. True, our decimal currency table is 10 mills one cent, 10 cents one dime, &c., yet we coin no mills, nor even one-half or one-quarter cents. However, in foreign countries where coin like the farthing, centime, pfennig, kreutzer, &c., is in circulation, the purchasing public suffers no such loss as we do.

This matter is one of general knowledge, has now and then been agitated but with no result, obviously because those to whom saving fractions of pennies is of no importance are not interested; also, retailers would be disinclined to the loss of millions now garnered for no value given, and to possible additional trouble of handling such minute coin, but mainly because the millions to be benefited are indifferent to their personal interests.

Nevertheless the subject remains one that our Government should give attention to, to further general welfare, especially so as matters of price and value of any article as established by natural laws of supply and demand are beyond Federal control.

The wall of high cost of living with its gloomy alternative of barely existing, and ample profit, prevail in even these times of (psychological) prosperity, so why not give such relief as fractional pennies would permanently offer?

ADOLPH OPPENHEIMER.
NEW YORK, November 28.

The Upper House and Friend McAdoo.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A telegram to Colonel E. M. House, a private citizen, I believe, from a man in Houston deplores the reopening of the New York Cotton Exchange, and closes with these words:

Your friend McAdoo might discover ready means of eliminating future trading for at least six months.

Even in these hard times the study of American government is still a pleasure within the reach of the poor. So I am moved to ask if the telegram means a return to those naughty William McKinley days of the "full dinner pail" and ante-Chautauqua prosperity?

Such telegrams were in order when the cartoons of Mark Hanna in the dollar mark suit were in vogue. But to-day, in the newer freedom, how can Colonel House, a mere citizen, influence "friend McAdoo," a mere executive officer?

Oh, Haman! Where are the gallows makers? GEORGE HIRAM MANN.
NEW YORK, November 29.

Reserve Bank Discounts.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I was very much interested in the editorial on the "Reserve Bank Discount Rates." The primary purpose of the discount facilities of the reserve bank is undoubtedly to give a solvent bank the ability to pay out its depositors in case of a pressure on that particular institution or on banking institutions generally, and also in a minor degree to put a member bank in a position to discount for its customers at the time of their seasonable demands.

This latter feature will probably be overworked through the banks overlending in times of quiet on account of the new facility which has been given them, but the idea of rediscounting for the sake of going into the market and buying paper should absolutely be discouraged by the reserve banks and by the financial writers. H. L. GRIGGS.
NEW YORK, November 28.

The Test of Resemblance.

Knicker—Whom does the baby look like?
Becker—Like the most money.

IN TIME OF PEACE PREPARE!

Concerning the Popular Movement for Preparation for War.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I noticed in this morning's SUN a report relating to agitation of the question of the unpreparedness of this nation for war. The movement is a splendid one, and every person who has the interest of the nation at heart should heartily cooperate with it.

There are many ways that this can be brought about which are hardly necessary for me to mention. One particularly is to interest all communities to form committees to wait upon their Representatives and Senators and urge them to introduce bills and to support them in Congress for the increasing of the navy and the army. We should have a navy equal to the navy of any nation and a standing army of not less than 500,000 to 750,000 men, well equipped and ready for active service. The coast defence should be looked to.

It is reported to have been said, as is well known, by one of the greatest leaders of modern times, who was first in war, in peace and in the hearts of his countrymen, "In time of peace prepare for war."

NEW YORK, November 28. H.

Flippant Remark About the Gubernatorial Staffs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Those who have had fears that our army was insufficient to protect our coasts from hostile attack may again spend their "nights in careless slumber," for the newly elected Governors of the different States will each soon have a staff of magnificent military men endowed with sparkling wit and subtle cunning and of such portentous fighting abilities that it will make all would be invaders of our country bid "farewell to folly" of war.

JAMES D. DEWELL, Jr.
NEW HAVEN, Conn., November 28.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

A Veterinary Surgeon on the Difference 'Twixt "Epidemic" and "Epizootic."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Epidemic," a disease prevalent among people. "Epizootic," a disease prevalent among animals. THE SUN'S English is usually so correct that THE SUN should be the first one to correct the error that the press has got into by confusing and confounding in the public mind the use of the words "epidemic" and "epizootic."

Some years ago we had among the horses of this country what the press called "epizootic," as if epizootic was a disease. It was really influenza that was epizootic among the horses.

The foot and mouth disease is not new with us, for it occurred here in 1908 and in 1902. The 1908 infection started in Detroit, Mich., and the one in 1902 started in Chelsea, Mass., and the outbreak prevailing among us at present started in Michigan and Indiana.

In an authoritative article on the disease in the *Scientific American* of November 28 Lewis W. Fetzer, Ph. D., M. D., of the Georgetown University Medical School, says that this disease is known by various names, such as "aphthæ epizootica, eczema, epizootica, infectious aphtha, aphthous fever, Maul und Klauen Seuche (German), fièvre aphteuse (French), &c., and has been known from time immemorial in many parts of the globe. The worst outbreaks have been in Europe, some of them in recent years." In his final paragraph the learned doctor says:

If the fighting of the outbreaks of 1902 and 1908 is a measure of the Government and State officials' capacities for suppressing foot and mouth disease, we need have no fear as regards the favorable outcome of the present epizootic.

Newspaper men may call the foot and mouth disease an epidemic but they are wrong. Veterinarians call it an epizootic, and so long as the disease is confined to animals they are right, but when the disease attacks mankind then it may be called an epidemic also.

ALEXANDER SCHWALBACH, D. V. S.
NEW YORK, November 29.

BIG FISH AND MINNOWS.

A Bank Clerk's Reflections and Comparisons on the Siegel Case.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is astounding that a man like Siegel can defraud banks and others out of sums of money, and that when finally caught, brought to trial, found guilty by a jury, he is very politely fined $1,000 and sentenced to ten months. The law steps in and tells him: "Of course you don't have to serve your time as long as you get $25,000 for bail."

A bookkeeper or cashier for a business concern defrauds or defaults his firm of $150 under somewhat similar conditions. Accountants find the shortage, report it to the firm, who call in the law, have him arrested and brought to trial. Of course he is found guilty; he must be made an example of. The Judge hands him the sentence of eighteen months and tells him he is the worst criminal on this earth.

A poor devil having lost his job through watchful waiting business depression, with a wife and children starving at home, too proud to beg, as a last resort is driven by desperation to steal a loaf of bread and a bottle of milk. As usual he is caught, placed on trial and sentenced to one year.

In view of these comparisons, does it pay to be a big thief or are the laws a farce and a humbug? Why safeguard the bank from the inside when the gang outside can get it easier? A BANK CLERK.
NEW YORK, November 29.

The Toilers of the Subway Stairs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It seems a shame that hundreds of persons who daily use the subway station at 14th street and Broadway have to submit to the deplorable conditions that exist there because of the lack of proper elevator facilities to expedite the passage of the people from one level to the other.

Because the train platform at this station is about ninety feet below the street level it is necessary to use elevators to carry the people up and down. There are two elevators in use and their carrying capacity is from eighty to eighty-five persons a car. The probability is that at the time the subway was built the region in the vicinity of the 14th street station was not built up and the builders of that section of the subway were not farsighted enough to see that the underground system would boom the neighborhood to such an extent that more than two elevators would be necessary in future years to accommodate the people.

The result is that the elevator service is entirely inadequate for the needs of this important station, and the only solution of the difficulty seems to be the sinking of another shaft for the installation of another pair of elevators. There is no doubt such a proceeding would entail great expense on the subway management, but certainly something must be done to better the existing conditions. Only those who have to stand down in the narrow passage leading from the platform to the elevators realize the intolerable conditions that now exist. When this passage is jammed by an impatient mob of persons who vainly endeavor to reach the elevators in order to get to the surface it resembles a runway for cattle. But why should such conditions be permitted to exist, particularly on such an up to date system as the subway? VICTIM.
WASHINGTON HEIGHTS, November 28.

"Hurled" Armies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It was formerly a matter of discussion what name the pending conflict in Europe should be called by. As the question may not be finally settled I venture a suggestion based on a conscientious study of headlines in the evening papers, generally other people's papers, and often papers in the possession of the original newsboy. I have observed in this way that in the present war armies are usually "hurled." The various celebrities conspicuous in the conflict all in turn "hurl" vast armies against their opponents, equally addicted to "hurling." I therefore modestly suggest that the monster contest now raging go down in history by the apt designation of "the hurling war." I wish no individual credit for the idea; or at least I am willing to dedicate it to the versatile headline artists of the metropolitan press.

BROOKLYN, November 28. W. M. W.

THE COVERED ASH CART.

Help for the Street Cleaning Department in Making a Selection.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Has the millennium been or is it about to be reached in respect to that relic of barbarism under which New York city has suffered ever since it was a city, the asinine system of dumping ashes into uncovered carts in our streets and simultaneously dumping a fair proportion over luckless pedestrians? In Boards of Trade, Brooklyn League and other civic bodies for fifteen years past I have protested to all city administrations with like "results," talk, talk; promises, always broken; until now, accepting the public invitation, I visited the exhibit of the Street Cleaning Department and received a programme upon entering, on which is printed "Will you help the department?" referring among other things to "the open collection cart."

Will I help? Will a duck swim? Why, of course I'll "help," and so will thousands of other citizens, but how? The only "help" that I can conceive the department "wants" or is willing to accept will be help of a suggestive nature. I care not what "system" or "plan" is adopted by the department so long as an abatement of the nuisance is had. I give a few of my conclusions from an inspection of six or more "cart cover exhibits" shown in the aforesaid exhibition.

Most of those shown are too bulky, too cumbersome, too heavy or too costly. One, used in some parts of Germany, I was informed by the demonstrator, requires householders to buy entirely new and special cans to "fit the cart" instead of the cart being adapted to the householders' cans, which in New York city would mean from one to two million cans. I think this out of the question. Two covers seemed to me to approach nearer to the requirements, one consisting of three canvas "wings" or covers, appearing somewhat like an aeroplane when opened. Owing to the length of time the cover would have to remain open and exposed to the wind's vagaries, I see no advantage in it.

Another seems to me to be ideal. It works automatically, the canvas cover opening upon pressure of the lifted can and closing when pressure is removed. I wonder if it will be adopted, or tried at least. If not why not? A. H. WESTON.
NEW YORK, November 28.

THE PSYCHICAL WIRELESS.

The Simplicity of the Messages Brought Curiously Defended.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The editorial "On Definite Scientific Grounds" says:

A sort of backstairs immortality—in the case of men of high intellectual powers a diminution to the utmost feebleness; this seems to be about all the psychical wireless brings.

I dissent. If the platonic theology was true then indeeed would there be force in such objections, for the platonists "seeing in God the essence of thought" demanded intellectual attainments in the seeker after immortality. Therefore if a man fully developed under this belief passed away, and then his spirit was recalled to earth, we might logically expect that to his earth gained wisdom he had superadded wisdom from the mighty ones of the spirit realm, and that therefore his replies would exhibit intelligence.

But the child of God attempts to imitate but one of God's traits—His holiness. He believes he must become as a little child to enter the life immortal, that in that life he will meet with the same childlike minds. Consequently when his spirit is brought back childish answers alone are to be expected. FRED W. BALL.
WESTBROOK, Conn., November 27.

THE TOAD'S OLD JACKET.

An Observer of Batrachians Who Has Seen It Eaten.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. I. P. Walker's inquiry is an additional proof that the so-called professional naturalists know more about the bones than the habits of animals.

I personally observed the shedding of the following batrachians: The common toad (Bufo lentiginosus americanus), the leopard or pickerel frog (Rana palustris), the pond or green frog (Rana clamata) and the bullfrog (Rana catesbiana). I have kept several of these animals in experimental cages for years and still have a goodly stock of them.

Batrachians as a rule are not superstitious and shed their skins as often as their physical well being requires it. This depends upon temperature and food supply. Of ceremony they know very little and split their skin in several places, but no matter how jagged the old jacket is it is swallowed with relish. So far as my observation goes they do not make any distinction between their right front paw and the left one. They use both in the operation. E. F. EISINGER.
NEW YORK, November 29.

WITH BROOM AND BALLOT.

Woman's Domestic Activities Not Lessened Because She Can Vote.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am not an implacable feminist. I admit a sneaking conviction that man could somehow muddle through political, and even social, tangles without woman's civic assistance, but she is increasingly conscious of a more or less solemn duty to tear down and trample on that old rag of argument: If woman had the ballot she soon would be incapacitated for using the broom, &c.

As well reason that if her heart beats her hair cannot grow! Surely a woman's corporeal activities are not so limited as that. It is not unthinkable that a towering personality could cast a ballot, wield a broom, wash a baby, achieve baked beans and buttonholes, and raise flowers besides. LUCILE LOVEJOY.
BRAINTREE, Mass., November 28.

His Best Meal.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Occasionally somebody says to me, "Breakfast is my best meal," meaning thereby that breakfast is the meal he enjoys most. I can understand how a man would enjoy his breakfast, I enjoy mine very much; but I enjoy all my meals and my appetite improves as I go along, so that the meal I enjoy most is dinner. The day's work done, all care laid aside and with appetite cumulative, dinner is the meal for me.

NEW YORK, November 29. J. J. G.

Panetela.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

No, Luella,
Nothing happened
Down at Smyrna
After that.
Old Mohammed
Fired a volley
From the hip
On which he sat
One shot passed
Before the cutter.
One was short,
Another long,
And it had been
As effective
Had Mohammed
Rung a gong.

We are not,
My dear Luella,
Asking Turkey
To salute,
That could only
Get us nearly
Into trouble
And dispute.
All we ask
The Oriental,
We we call it
Square and kiss,
Is his positive
Assurance
That his gunners
Shot to miss.

That is all
It is, Luella.
Do not knit
Your pretty brow.
All gunpowder
Is a little
More combustible
Just now.
People bent
On peaceful missions
Like our Uncle
In the East,
Have to have
Their bump
Of caution
Temporarily
Increased.

BRISK SESSION OF CONGRESS EXPECTED

Not Much New Legislation, but Much Fighting Is Looked For.

"PORK BARREL" AN ISSUE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—Senators and Representatives are gathering in Washington for the closing short session of the Sixty-third Congress, which meets a week from to-morrow. Many of the Senators-elect and Representatives-elect of the next Congress will be here to get a glimpse of their future field of activity.

There will be a continuous procession of arrivals this week. A majority of the Senators and Representatives who left Washington after the adjournment of the last session for the election remained away for Thanksgiving. Many of them had been in Washington almost continuously since the Wilson Administration began and the "old home" looked good to them.

The short session, which will end by operation of law at noon March 4, is not likely to be productive of much new legislation. The President and his advisers are not anxious that it should be.

There are a few legislative odds and ends to be disposed of. These relate to the special currency measures recommended by the Federal Reserve Board last session which have passed the Senate and are pending in the House. There is likely to be some serious attention given to the subject of rural credits.

The La Follette seamanship bill, which passed the Senate and was considered by the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, will be pressed with great earnestness by its Senatorial author and by the representatives of the International Seamen's Union.

The Phillipine bill, the ship purchase bill, conservation legislation—all are scheduled for attention in this session. All are supposed to have the approval of the Administration, and there are strong hints from the official circle in Washington that the President does not desire an extra session next summer. The regular supply bills will take much time.

A new river and harbor bill was promised by the Congress leaders to the Senators and Representatives specially interested in such legislation. It was freely charged and generally conceded at the time that the bill of the last Congress was cut down to meet objections that a bill carrying nearly $50,000,000 would be reported early enough to be passed in the short session.

This is certain to provoke much debate and opposition. It is hinted that it is designed to take care of those projects that were sacrificed in the last bill.

The holiday recess is likely to be brief. The Congress leaders realize that they will need every hour between the assembling of Congress, a week from to-morrow, and the enforced adjournment, March 4, to pass necessary legislation, and they will work to prevent the necessity of an extra session.

Democrats expect to have some trouble in their own party ranks that may make the legislative programme more or less difficult. The advocates of certain special cotton legislation, who were overcome with difficulty in the closing hours of the last session, will renew their fight in the coming short session. The session will be brisk.

CONFER ON EVICTION PROBLEM

Clergymen and City Justices to Appeal for Funds.

A conference on the eviction question, which the city is facing this winter, called together by Justice Gustave Hartman of the Second District Municipal Court, in the apartment of Mrs. L. W. Moore, a large real estate owner on the East Side, at the Hotel Ansonia yesterday afternoon. It was attended by the Rev. Dr. Bernard Drachman, Bishop David A. Greer, the Rev. Dr. Rudolph Grossmann, Father G. J. McMahon of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, former Assistant District Attorney Frank Moss, the Rev. Charles S. Parkhurst, Rabbi Joseph Silverman, Cyrus Sulzberger, a trustee of the United Hebrew Charities, and Judge William C. Wadhams of the Court of General Sessions.

It was decided that evidence had already been given of conditions of poverty and unemployment so serious as to demand some action beyond that of the organized charities. The tentative plan finally evolved was the formation of a committee of prominent citizens and of men with intimate knowledge of the East Side to appeal for funds and to work with the organized charities in the distribution of them. This committee, it is felt, should not eliminate by any means alone, but should generally interest itself in relieving suffering under the conditions which the winter promises to bring forth.

Bishop Greer and others spoke of the unusual demands for aid that had already been made on them by poverty stricken people. Judge Wadhams stated that as a matter of insurance against crime some extraordinary provisions should be made.

Some time within a week or so, as early as is possible, a larger meeting will be summoned by these men, when definite action may be expected; and a committee composed of Justice Hartman, Bishop Greer and Drs. Silverman and Parkhurst was appointed to interest Mayor Mitchel.

"BUY A BUNCH OF SHINGLES

Northwestern Lumbermen Appeal to Wilson to Help Them.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The "buy a bale" movement, started in Washington by sympathetic Southern Democrats to assist in carrying the cotton crop during the war period, has its counterpart in the "buy a thousand feet" of lumber and "buy a bunch of shingles," suggested to President Wilson by the secretary-treasurer of the Kelso (Wash.) Commercial Club, made up in large part of lumbermen.

A letter written by J. L. Sparling, secretary-treasurer of the club, to President Wilson and made public here to-day sounded a discordant note in the prosperity chorus that has been going up from Administration sources recently. Mr. Sparling's letter reads:

"We have followed with interest the movement of 'buy a bale of cotton' to help the growers of cotton remove their crop. Now, out here in the Pacific coast our conditions are in very bad shape; our mills and lumber camps are closed or running with very small crews, and, with our workingmen out of employment, business is poor.

"To better these conditions we would like to have you as President start a movement to buy a thousand feet of lumber or a bunch of cedar shingles. This would help to improve conditions out in this section if the people will take hold as they have in the cotton movement."

OSBORNE LEAVES FOR SING SING

He Will Assume His Duties as Warden To-day.

AUBURN, Nov. 29.—Thomas Mott Osborne, whose appointment as warden of Sing Sing prison was recently announced, left his home tonight and will take up his new position to-morrow.

In reply to questions as to whether he would make any immediate changes in prison methods he said that he would have to go over the conditions thoroughly before attempting anything new.