# The Sun.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1914.

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

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

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|---|---|
| DAILY, Per Month | $0 50 |
| DAILY, Per Year | 6 00 |
| SUNDAY, Per Month | 25 |
| SUNDAY (to Canada), Per Month | 40 |
| SUNDAY, Per Year | 2 50 |
| DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year | 8 50 |
| DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month | 75 |
| FOREIGN RATES. | |
| DAILY, Per Month | 1 25 |
| SUNDAY, Per Month | 65 |
| DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month | 1 90 |
| THE EVENING SUN, Per Month | 25 |
| THE EVENING SUN, Per Year | 2 50 |
| THE EVENING SUN (Foreign), Per Mo. | 1 03 |

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

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 Michodiere, off Rue du Quatre Septembre.
Washington office, Hibbs Building.
Brooklyn office, 106 Livingston street.

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## Experience Proves It.

That President WILSON will be supremely gratified to find his course in splitting the Democratic party wide open in a patronage fight enthusiastically, and of course disinterestedly, supported by the Republican press and Republicans generally will be conceded by everybody. Approval from such sources cannot but nerve Mr. WILSON for the noble struggle upon which he has entered.

Yet our virtuous friends of the Congressional minority need not put all their energy into their present altruistic efforts. In any enterprise calculated to demoralize the Democratic party Mr. WILSON has never needed outside encouragement.

## Safety First.

In recent disputes between railroad engineers and their employers prominence has been given to the demand that so-called surprise tests to reveal the degree of watchfulness on the part of the engineers shall be eliminated or modified in such a manner as practically to rob them of their significance. At present the representatives of the locomotive drivers on the Western roads are pledged to strike unless their requirements in this particular are met, and their Brotherhood's president, WILLIAM S. CARTER, is quoted as saying:

"Safety first is a good advertisement, but we want a system that will not cause an engineman, suddenly confronted with a red light, to jump when there is no real danger."

The tests are made to maintain on the roads that discipline without which no traveller and no package of goods would be safe for an instant. It is plain that unless they surprise the men whose conduct is being checked they will have no virtue of any kind, for if a man is informed that in a certain block on a specified run he will find the signals set against him, and that observers for the company will note his conduct, his behavior may not be a fair index of his usual custom. How except by surprise tests the vigilance of the men is to be recorded is not suggested; perhaps the Brotherhood would substitute a system of reports by the engineer, in which they might rate their own efficiency in this particular.

That third party to every industrial quarrel—the public—is certainly vitally interested in this detail of the relations between the railroads and their men, and it is highly improbable popular opinion will support any scheme that would make travel by rail less safe than it now is.

## After the Emden Was Beaten.

A full account of the sea fight between the Sydney and the Emden off the Cocos Islands, which appears in a letter written by one of the British naval officers to his father, is notable because it reveals a feeling free from enmity between the victors and the German survivors. It has been said that the naval officers with the fleet at Kiel do not show the hatred for the British that inflames the German newspapers in their comments on the war and that is fostered among the troops at the front. "We seemed to agree," says the British naval officer who describes the Cocos fight, "that it was our job to knock one another out, but there was no malice in it." So Kiel anticipates the encounter that is expected some day in the North Sea. There is something in life afloat, even in the shadow of the guns, that makes men generous enemies and lifts them above petty meannesses.

At one time of the Cocos battle a cloud of yellow smoke obscured the Emden, and the cry went up, "She's gone." On the Sydney the order was at once given, "All hands turn out the lifeboats; there will be men in the water." But when the cloud blew away the guns of the Emden were still flashing. As she stranded in the surf a cutter with the writer of the letter in charge rowed in to her. "You fought very well," said the British officer, saluting Captain KARL VON MULLER. "No," said the German, and after a pause he went on: "Thank you very much for saying that, but I was not satisfied. We should have done better." The Germans "were quite shaken up," says the Briton, "when they found out that our Captain had asked that there be no cheering on entering Colombo, but we certainly did not want cheering with rows of badly wounded men laid out in cots on the quarterdeck."

The British officer has words of praise and friendliness for the Germans. "Captain VON MULLER," he says, "is a very fine fellow." VITTHOFF, the torpedo Lieutenant, "a thoroughly nice fellow," and Lieutenant SCHAL "also a good fellow." VON MULLER expressed with feeling his gratitude for the rescue of his men and the excellent treatment of his wounded. He shook hands heartily with his captors when leaving them. The same spirit of fellowship and sympathy was shown by the officers on both sides. The Germans had fought a good fight and the British respected them for it; the defeated bore no malice. It was all in the day's work.

## New Year's Eve License.

Mayor MITCHEL has decided that New York is to be as wide open on next Thursday night and Friday morning for New Year's Eve celebration as the demands of good order and propriety will allow. All night licenses are to be granted to all respectable houses of entertainment, so that 1915 may be ushered in with eating and drinking, music and dancing, with mirth and jollity at their highest pitch.

This decision is as wise as it is genial. It is, no doubt, in accord with the wishes of the great majority of New Yorkers. It provides for a wholesome explosion of animal spirits which will put all the participants and those who enjoy the fun vicariously as well in good humor to resume on Saturday, after a full day's rest, the workaday obligations in whose monotony the succession of years brings no change.

It would be a hard world and a dull life that brought no period of joyous effervescence to the people collectively. New Year's Eve is one of the annual occasions that have been chosen by common consent for giving vent to natural instincts of enjoyment. The present custom of seeing the new year in replaces, after an interval of years, but now with a sufficient sanction of established usage, the older custom of New Year's calls. Time out of mind the need for some characteristic celebration of the day has been recognized, and in other countries much is made of it according to national impulses. In France, for instance, it is the great day of calling and present making, of renewing ties of friendship and acquaintance.

The calling system in New York became subject to grave abuses. A beautiful custom in a small and simple community, it grew to be a nuisance and almost a social danger in the vast promiscuity of a big city with a mixed population. In the years after its decline, however, it was distinctly recognized that New York had lost something. It had a great holiday of universal observance but without any definite programme. This was often commented on by the bored idlers of January 1.

Then came the appearance of the overnight jollification. How it began it might now be hard to say, but at any rate some fifteen years ago it emerged into the public consciousness as a clearly defined feature of New York life. It has held its own ever since, and it is an event to which every unsoured spirit looks forward with pleasure. True, abuses may have crept into the night's doings, especially in the earlier years of the celebration when it grew into popularity with unexpected leaps. But these have never been very serious drawbacks, and in recent years successful efforts have been made to check such as took on a collective character—some street boisterousness, "roughousing" by some of the more turbulent youth who always take advantage of such opportunities. Anyway, it is the task of the police to suppress incidental disorder.

As to individual conduct, there are always those who carry their pleasures to excess. But no extra license, all night or otherwise, is necessary to their purposes. They are to be taken for granted as the inevitable discount to all activities of life. The people to consider in looking forward to this occasion are the hundred thousand people or so who take their enjoyment with an ebullition tempered with discretion and who resort to the public places of entertainment to see the new year in, stimulating each other with the infection of joy and hope. There is no good reason for balking or curbing this great movement of good humor, and the city at large will approve the Mayor's course in giving free rein to it.

## The Grand Old Man of the Sierras.

A sequoia of the human kind fell when JOHN MUIR died. He should be buried in Yosemite Valley and have El Capitan for his monument. It is hard to conceive of the Grand Old Man of the Sierras lying still and lifeless. In his writings he seemed to have immortal youth and to be one with the great trees and the waterfall and the winds that swept the heights and made music in the deep woods. Of all who roamed Yosemite none was more at home there, more in tune with its manifestations, more friendly with its beasts and birds, more serenely content in its solitudes and elemental violences. There is a picture of JOHN MUIR climbing a pine to sway with it in the "wind storm in the forest," which he describes so wonderfully that one forgets time and place in reading the rhapsody and is carried into the heart of the Sierras. Where is there a finer passage in all the literature of nature?

To JOHN MUIR there was no peril, nothing lonely, rude or uncongenial in the American wilderness. "One should go to the woods for safety," he said. Civilized towns he regarded as more dangerous and hostile. A man could take care of himself in the wilderness, and nature was hospitable. He practised what he preached. With a bundle of bread and some tea he went into the Sierras alone at all times of the year. Snows might drift and tempests beat, but JOHN MUIR was safe and happy; in the tremendous moods of nature he felt elation. The bear was a comrade—MUIR never carried firearms—the rattlesnake harmless if not provoked, and the water ouzel, poised on a spray over foaming rapids, made the divinest melody in the world. One of the greatest disappointments in MUIR'S life was EMERSON'S shrinking from a night in the sequoias under the stars. The Concord philosopher came to see the big trees, MUIR was his guide, and a sunset glow transfigured the West. What an opportunity for the author of the "Song of Nature"! In vain his admirer pleaded with him. It was getting late, the dews were falling, there was a chill in the air, the camp bed was rough, strange noises were abroad, and EMERSON left MUIR to his wilderness.

It seems only the other day that JOHN MUIR was showing the sequoias to WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT, pushing him with friendly hand along the trail, and giving the President no handle to his name, for MUIR was as democratic as a bear. GALEN CLARK, discoverer of the big trees, lived to near a century, and his disciple and comrade, who preserved the sequoias for generations to come, bade fair to last as long. MUIR'S wanderings and privations had but dulled the edge of his vigor: at 73 he was voyaging far up the Amazon, and he was still a strong man on his feet. The future seemed to hold for him many days of exhilaration and worship in the wilderness. He was cut down untimely in a hale old age. But he will live in human memory as long as the vast Alaska glacier named after him, and the inspiration of the books into which he poured his soul will not wane.

No one can view the beauties and mysteries of the Yosemite without thinking of the great natural man who gave expression to them in moving prose. And JOHN MUIR—this is the eternal debt of the American people to him—will always be known as the savior of the national parks. Institutions of learning honored and decorated him, but this was his greatest distinction.

## In the Philippines.

Through unofficial channels this country has been served with circumstantial accounts of a revolutionary plot in the Philippine Islands, alleged to have attained alarming proportions and to have enlisted the support of a number of natives serving in the scouts. Against these reports the War Department has put its protestation of ignorance and a specific statement from Governor-General HARRISON denying all knowledge of unusual dissatisfaction among the islanders. In spite of these official outgivings, the reports persist, and with reference to them Secretary GARRISON now says:

"I cannot help but believe that this sort of information is being cabled to the United States for the purpose of influencing the legislation now pending in Congress.

"I cannot imagine any other reason, for I am unable to ascertain that there is any truth whatever in these reports."

This being Secretary GARRISON'S suspicion, he should at once begin an investigation to confirm or to disprove it. Disregarding for the instant the manifest villainy of a concerted effort to influence legislation in this manner, it will occur to every thoughtful man that this is a season in which the spreading of false reports of revolutions and uprisings in any quarter of the globe is a work of the most dangerous character.

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A bear sixteen feet long has been seen in the Long Island woods two miles from Oyster Bay.—*Report from the East.*

Is this the fellow who ate the Bull Moose?

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The London *Times* rebukes KUNO MEYER for his ingratitude to England, where his reputation was made and where he has had many personal friends. If the *Times* realized the real effect on American opinion of Professor MEYER'S activities in the United States it would not complain.

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Recently two surveyors have been in Bagdad trying to lay out the route for the proposed electric tramway.—*Daily Consular and Trade Reports.*

HARUN and GIAFAR sociologizing and slumming on an electric car?

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The Government match has long had an evil celebrity in France among foreigners and French people who had been abroad and had opportunities of using real matches that would light without breaking in a larger proportion than one out of three. The manufacture and sale of matches in France constitute a State monopoly, and the result is the classic illustration of the incapacity of Government for conducting any industry with success. The Government matches are about eight times as dear as any others in the world and about twenty times as bad. The French people at large have had in the past no way of discovering this, as the monopoly has prevented all comparison. The war, however, has brought new light—in a double sense. The huge shipments of matches to the soldiers and the crippling of the Government factories have compelled the importation of foreign matches. The Government still controls the trade and sells the imported wares at eight times the price charged in London. But, at least, it has not been able to conceal from the public the fact that it is possible to make good matches when private capital and industry are embarked in the task. It is only the Government monopoly that is wasteful and inefficient.

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Among Democratic [Presidential] possibilities Mr. FRANKLIN K. LANE, Secretary of the Interior, led all the rest.—*Herald.*

Mr. LANE, a native of Prince Edward Island, Canada, belongs among Democratic impossibilities.

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Admirable idea to demand "ample amnesty" in Mexico, but the awful doubt arises: Will there be any one left to be amnestied?

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Making the Capital dry may be good politics. It may even be good morals. But before putting the irrevocable seal of their wisdom upon it, might it not be both wise and fair for the Congressmen, who rule without representing in this case, to allow the people of Washington to have their say? Whether they think a prohibition régime will add to their happiness or prosperity should be worth finding out; and some other evidence on the subject would be desirable besides the declarations of those who are committed to the anti-liquor policy. In these referendum days, what's the matter with letting the citizens of the District of Columbia vote on the question?

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The man who gave out tobacco to the waifs and strays as a variant to the bread of charity had a true inspiration of good nature. There is only one thing finer than plain giving, and that is giving the things the recipient craves for.

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If General FRANCISCO VILLA has taken a house in the city of Mexico he must be planning for a longer stay than HUERTA made, and perhaps the ex-outlaw's profession of indifference to office is now qualified by a mental reservation. Obscurity to VILLA living in a city would hardly be tolerable.

## HOW NOT TO DO IT.

### Sample of the Inelasticity of Well Meant Legislation.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The sundry civil act, approved August 1 last, provided that appropriations for printing and binding the annual department reports should not apply for any annual report or accompanying documents unless the head of each executive department should have such documents in the hands of the Public Printer by October 15 and complete revised proofs of the documents and the annual reports in hand by November 10 and 20 respectively.

Result, the annual report of the Director of the United States Mint has just been published with these important omissions: The world's gold and silver production in 1913, either in totals or by countries as usual; the estimates of the world's industrial consumption of gold and silver in 1913; the table of the monetary stocks of the world on December 31, 1913.

Much of this data is necessarily secured by correspondence with foreign Governments, which cannot be hurried to accommodate the United States Government Printing Office. Hence the Director of the Mint's report for 1914 is sadly incomplete and by the time the statistics now lacking are embodied in next year's report they will have lost the value of freshness. Our Mint's compilations are noted for their thoroughness and accuracy and are of much use to all students and writers on economics. This year's report falls lamentably short of the general high standard through no fault of officials, who were forced to hurry their copy to the printer before complete returns were received from abroad. J. S. H. U.

NEW YORK, December 25.

## TRANSPORTING TROOPS BY SEA.

### How England Succeeded in Sending Her Armies to South Africa.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In reference to the editorial article in THE SUN entitled "An Achievement for Americans to Think About" and your complimentary remarks about the success the British attained in the despatch of troops to South Africa in 1899-1902, and asking how long it would take America to send troops to Mexico or the Philippines, may I say, as one of the transport officers in charge of the ships sailing to and from Southampton during the whole period of the South African war, that the success was due solely to the careful arrangements made beforehand, by which a certain number of officers, whose services were retained at a small annual remuneration, were made fully conversant with the methods and details of preparing merchant ships for carrying troops.

Previous to the Boer war it was considered undesirable to carry more than 1,500 men or 400 horses in one ship. It was found practicable to increase these numbers to 3,000 and 1,000 respectively.

The details for berthing and victualling such large numbers of men or horses in a confined space have to be very carefully worked out and every available foot of space carefully considered.

I venture to think that if America took the same pains beforehand to establish a system for turning merchant ships into troop carriers she would meet with the same measure of success as we did.

W. I. W. BARNARD,
Captain R. N.* Retired.

SOUTHAMPTON, December 10.

## OLD FASHIONED ECONOMIES.

### One Regarding Women's Apparel That Is Now but Rarely Observed.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At the exit of a subway station on a rainy day lately I saw a nice old lady who had no umbrella look out at the rain and then deliberately fold up her dress skirt from the bottom, up under her protecting cloak, so that it would not get wet or spotted on her way home.

In old times it was a common thing to see women old and young do precisely that when caught in a storm or a shower, but you very rarely see a woman do so now. To-day women walk right along in the rain in all their finery as if they were rain proof; it is not the fashion now for women to save their apparel in that old style manner; a woman walking along the street with her dress skirt turned up would now attract universal attention.

Mind, I am not complaining of this, nor seeking to criticise; we don't criticise the ladies. I just mention it to show one of the many ways in which we have departed from old fashioned economies.

NEW YORK, December 25. ANTIQUE.

### The Middle West Anti-German.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Charles Vezin says, as other German sympathizers have said before, that the West is distinctly pro-German. He does not say what he means by the "West," but the States just west of the Mississippi River are decidedly not pro-German.

In the cities and towns in Iowa the interest in the Belgians has been surprising. In these towns, which are very largely settled by Irish, German and Scandinavian emigrants and their descendants in the next two generations, there have been collections taken for the Belgians by a "tag day," collections in all the public schools, this movement originating in the State educational department, and in the town I know best the collection taken at the union Thanksgiving service was unanimously voted sent to the Belgian Relief Fund. Some gifts were sent to the Christmas ship, but of course this carried gifts to all nationalities.

I have many relatives and friends in that section and have yet to hear a word of sympathy for the Germans.

EX-IOWAN.

NEW YORK, December 24.

### Tribute to the Common People.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The following incident which took place yesterday in a department store may account for some people's mistrust in the old adage "Honesty is the best policy."

My wife, having accompanied a friend to the above store, while waiting for her friend to make a purchase, discovered upon the counter before her a purse, inlaid with a gold watch and containing some $200 or more and several rings of considerable value.

She immediately delivered it to the store superintendent, who requested her to wait in his office until the owner should call to claim it, which was done in the course of a few minutes.

Upon the restoration of her purse to her the owner, evidently a lady (?) of fashion, rewarded my wife's honesty with the following remark:

"Oh, I guess the common people don't require a reward," and very haughtily made her exit.

I trust her conscience permitted her to reap as much joy from her money as my wife did from her knowledge of an honest act. H. D. B.

WINFIELD, L. I., December 23.

### The One Man Different.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I don't exactly know what to make of the man I see in the subway or on the elevated reading, in these days, not a newspaper but a book or a magazine. Is he indifferent to the war? Or is he a philosopher who is going to read about it after it is over? Or why is it that he alone reads a magazine or book when every other man in the car is reading a newspaper? HENRY F. FIELDS.

NEW YORK, December 25.

### Why His Heart Is Bowed Down.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* My heart has been made heavy and my Christmas sad by the pathetic manner in which Miss Henrietta Rodman tells us in the otherwise cheerful THE SUN this morning that she "must find something to do to make up for her loss of ten months salary." Isn't her husband able and willing to support her?

DOWNCAST.

NEW YORK, December 25.

## THE CIVIL SERVICE.

### City Employees Want a Man on the Municipal Commission.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Although certain high and mighty gentlemen never tire of shouting the great benefits of civil service reform to the public employees and to the public service, we seldom hear from those same employees on the subject, unless the employee has grown old in the service and is anxiously thinking of the time in the near future when he will not be efficient and may be removed for non-efficiency, when instead he should be thinking of a civil pension.

This talk about civil service reform and its great benefits is certainly tiresome to one who knows. There are various brands of civil service reform, and when you get right down to hard tacks they don't amount to a damn.

Why is it that a civil service employee in one branch of the government is discriminated against in favor of civil service employees in another branch and under the same Civil Service Commission?

Is it not strange that an employee in the first branch of the government is not allowed to hold honorary positions and without compensation, while employees in another branch of the government and under the same civil service rules and the same Civil Service Commission are allowed that privilege?

Why is such partiality shown? Is municipal civil service a joke? It is a well known fact that many city employees are actively engaged in political management.

I have no grievance against civil employees doing these things, but, I ask, why is partiality shown?

It is a well known fact civil service reform is not popular with those whom it affects, and its rules and new orders are generally objectionable to the great majority. Would it not be a very fine compliment to the civil service employees, for those who have the appointive power, to appoint to the civil service governing bodies civil service employees who are familiar with conditions?

But no, it seems those who have the power are not broad minded enough, and year in and year out appoint to those positions men generally not capable and out of touch with the service. Generally their qualification is to be a professor of something. RICHARD CARMAN.

NEW YORK, December 25.

## RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

### Is Another War Between Them Inevitable in the Future?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A Russian Governor-General in the Far East said in a recent article that Russia's population will be brought up to 300,000,000 in another fifty years and the only outlet of the increased population is in Siberia and other Asiatic territories. The immigrants of yellow race are coming into these provinces faster than our people, and Japan, since the annexation of Corea, where her money is extensively invested, is steadily pushing on with the economic invasion of Manchuria. Should such a tendency be allowed to continue the two nations must come into collision sooner or later. The peace between the two countries is only to be strengthened by keeping their armaments on equal footing. Such is the view of an influential Russian of the situation.

Should the Allies come out victorious and should Japan's hold upon Corea and Manchuria slacken the world must expect to see the gigantic figure of Russia loom portentously upon the Oriental horizon. Win or lose in the struggle in Europe, pan-Slavism will not cease to be a nightmare to the Nipponese, and to meet this sway squarely Japan will in all probability be obliged to increase her armament. The situation somewhat resembles that which existed between England and Germany before the war, and it certainly does not give a bright outlook to peace loving people. SHINZO MORI.

ROCHESTER, December 24.

## BY LOVE, NOT LEGIONS.

### A Sweet Recipe of Peace From the Tents of Chautauqua.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I see that our great Secretary of State says that the war in Europe is not to be brought to a close by legions but by love. Now do you think that the Great Commoner, and he certainly is than most, would consent to explain this?

I really think that in the name of humanity he should at once let the world know the precise meaning of this so that we once more might have peace. Whose love? What love? The Kaiser's for the French, or vice versa, or the English love for the Kaiser, or the Kaiser's love for the Turk (Fi!), or does the great snake charmer mean the vast oceans of his own love for the warring factions? If this be the solution, how is this love to be applied in order to bring about the desired result? For heaven's sake, let some one at once tell the European warriors that Bryan loves them. It is worth trying. Even if they do not at once stop fighting, think what a Christmas present it would be for them. JUNIUS.

NEW YORK, December 25.

### The Robert Collyer Memorial.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A few days ago there was placed on private exhibition in the studio of the artist, Mr. Henry Hering, 118 East Twenty-eighth street, the clay model of the great high relief which is to be placed in the Church of the Messiah in perpetual memory of Dr. Robert Collyer. If the judgment of the Collyer family and of such friends and parishioners as have seen the model is to be trusted, this memorial, when completed in the heroic bronze, will constitute a notable sculptural achievement. Certainly as a portrait of Dr. Collyer it is almost startling in its vital reproduction of the great preacher's benignant face, splendid physical proportions and noble bearing.

In connection with this event may I take this occasion on behalf of the committee in charge to issue a further appeal for funds for this memorial? Six thousand dollars is the sum required. Of this a little more than $2,000 is now in the hands of the committee; another $2,000 has been pledged, which leaves a final $2,000 still to be raised.

With the exception of one large gift and fifteen smaller ones, all the money thus far received or pledged has come from the members of the Church of the Messiah. It is with the desire to have this monument a truly national, indeed international memorial, and with confident assurance that Dr. Collyer's friends everywhere will want to have their share in its erection, that this further appeal for funds is issued at this time. Mr. Hering hopes to have the relief ready for unveiling and dedication by Eastertide. Contributions therefore should be in the hands of the treasurer, Mr. William Shillaber, 60 Wall street, not later than March or April.

JOHN HAYNES HOLMES.

NEW YORK, December 24.

### Amid Arms the Muse Is Silent.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your editorial comment on Watson's "pome" on America reminds me that I have not seen any poetry on the war which was not more or less stilted or affected.

It would seem as if the strife, so colossal and unprecedented, had decided the poets that they must forge their loudest thunder or have recourse to their most high sounding words or phrases, forgetting that simplicity and sincerity, for big as well as little occasions, is always the most effective. STRINUS.

NEW YORK, December 25.

### Penalized Business in the South.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* We are mailing you by special delivery a summary of railroad construction in the South for 1914, showing the smallest mileage in any year since the *Manufacturers Record* was started thirty-three years ago, and less than one-half of the average mileage annually built for a third of a century. The South, like the rest of the country, is paying a fearful penalty for the ceaseless attacks of recent years on business and railroads.

RICHARD H. EDMONDS,
Editor *Manufacturers Record.*

BALTIMORE, Md., December 24.

## WANING IDEALISM.

### Yielding in This Country and in Europe to Hard Facts.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The idealist is one whose aspirations determine his judgment; the realist, one whose judgment determines his aspirations. Idealism is a distemper of the ungoverned imagination, and idealism is its convalescence. Both this country and Europe have been desperately ill of the disorder, but now fortunately are well on the way to recovery.

In this country we have had the Roosevelt ideal of a "pure democracy," achieving its uttermost chastity in the conception of a supreme court of popular clamor; that calamity happily has ceased to threaten. We have had the Wilson ideal of American consecration to the service of international altruism; that perversion of governmental authority has been checked, and the submerged 85 per cent. of the Mexican people is to be permitted to work out its own salvation. We have had the Bryan ideal of the affection and respect in which all nations must hold a just people; our temptation to confidence in that manner of defence disappeared with Belgium's neutrality. We have had the Sulzer ideal of the unrestrained rule of the "common people"; the "common people" speedily recognized their own incapacity as impersonated by their self-constituted representative. We have had the Hobson ideal of senatorial selection by virtue of puritanical intolerance; Alabama preferred able service to defamatory propaganda, and that method of office seeking is no longer popular. We have had the Knox-Wickersham-Brandeis ideal of national antagonism to prosperous business; and the several departments and commissions of the Government comprise the only considerable body of our citizens that has not yet discerned the disastrous results of its application. In sum, we have entertained and been governed by ideals political and economic, ideals social and personal, ideals sacred, profane and promethean; and the common character of them all has been their hopeless impracticability.

Blundering blindly onward in consecrated conceit, we nevertheless have been singularly and undeservedly fortunate in our merciful destiny; for Germany and England are paying infinitely greater penalties for sins of idealism no graver than our own. England has indulged too generously the aspiration for universal peace, while Germany has cultivated too zealously the aspiration for imperial aggression. The trial of those ideals by the consuming fires of realism has come with a vengeance; and it is altogether likely that when the smoke of battle shall have cleared away both those great nations will have been purified of all ambitions save those alone that recognize the verities of nature and human nature as they really are.

One after another the fantasies of the dreamers are being submitted to the harsh test of truth, one by one they are found wanting. The idealists have had their delirious day and the course of to-morrow will be ruled by men whose judgment is guided by the facts of reality instead of fancies of what ought to be.

FRED METCALF.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., December 24.

## BETTER JAIL FORD.

### He Is Notoriously Guilty of Excellent Business Practices.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Rossiter Johnson's protest against the meddlesome interference of our Legislatures and courts with legitimate business affairs is timely and to the point. As an illustration of his contention that great injury is being done to our manufacturing and commercial interests by hostile legislation a recent decision of the United States Circuit Court at Cincinnati, Ohio, is of more than local import.

Henry Ford of Detroit makes motor cars. In order that there shall be no favoritism, by which one buyer shall get a car cheaper than his neighbor, Mr. Ford enters into agreements with his agents in various cities, establishing uniform prices for his cars. These agreements are essentially in the interest of the general public, since they prevent price discriminations in favor of a few purchasers, as against the great majority who are willing to pay the advertised price.

A Cincinnati dealer who had agreed to sell Ford cars at the standard price broke his contract. Thereupon the United States court was asked to issue an injunction to prevent further violations of the agreement. The court refused to grant the relief asked for, on the ground, among other reasons, that agreements to sell goods at uniform prices are in restraint of trade and therefore void.

Here is a plain case of public clamor against business being translated by the courts into an opinion that long established methods of marketing goods are illegal and that duly executed contracts may be freely broken by one of the parties for the purpose of taking an unfair advantage of competing dealers selling the same article. The whole system of selling motor cars through agencies depends on the uniform price policy.

No dealer would be so foolish as to spend large sums in advertising a certain car if he knew that some irresponsible person could come along and by cutting prices reap all the benefit of his advertisements. Yet as the matter now stands a business system that has been built up during the last fifteen years so that tens of thousands are now employed in it is threatened with destruction because a law never intended to reach its activities is held to apply to it.

Perhaps it is a good thing for the country to have the courts uphold a practice that leads to rank favoritism and price discrimination. But you can't make the thousands of dealers in motor cars and motor accessories believe it.

WHIDDEN GRAHAM.

NEW YORK, December 25.

## ATHLETES FOR DEFENCE.

### Encourage the Amateurs to Repel the Nation's Foes.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* May I call your attention to the very great value of amateur athletics in preparing the young men of the country in case there was need to repel a foreign invader? Physical fitness would be of the first importance in such an event. This is what the young men get who have a part in amateur athletics. It would be well, and the Amateur Athletic Union officials could easily provide for this, if more attention were given to the less expert competitors in amateur athletics.

This is already provided for in a degree through handicapping and prizes for novices. Young men who take part in amateur athletics cannot engage in dissipation of any sort. As a rule they must cut out smoking, intoxicating drink, give more or less thought to what they eat and other matters which make for a sound body.

They are also under discipline, the captains of the various teams being in a position to order this or that done, and they must obey. Athletics plays a large part in the Swiss system, of which General Wood so highly approves as a model for this country.

The fact that amateur athletics would keep militarism far in the background would do away with the objection of many to any plan for preparation in which militarism had more than a small part.

JOHN C. COLLINS,
Chairman Managing Committee the New Haven Amateur Athletes.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., December 25.

### Sunrise on Washington Heights.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Well, for the last two or three years, since we have been living up here on upper Washington Heights, it has seemed to me as if it grew light winter mornings ten or fifteen minutes or more earlier than it used to when we lived downtown.

Downtown we lived in the very midst of buildings, shut in on all sides. Here we live at an elevation of 150 or 200 feet, to start with, and immediately to the east of us there are no buildings whatever.

MARTIN P. EVERTS.

NEW YORK, December 25.

# REPORTS SUCCESS OF SOUTHERN EDUCATION

## General Board Shows People Have Responded Quickly to Outside Help.

## NOW BEAR HALF THE COST

The General Education Board made public yesterday an instalment of its forthcoming report, dealing with the promotion of education in the Southern States. The report shows that the Southern people themselves are now carrying a large part of the burden and that the Government has also entered extensively into the work, which was formerly thought unconstitutional in that it was rather intrastate than interstate.

"Mr. Rockefeller's first gift to the General Education Board was designed to support an inquiry into the educational needs of the Southern people," the report says.

The investigators found that "the great bulk of the people of the Southern States was simply not earning enough to provide proper homes and to support good schools."

The average annual earnings of a farmer in many sections, they found, were as low as $160. This, they decided, was largely through lack of scientific knowledge, and "it was therefore deliberately decided to undertake the agricultural education, not of the future farmer, but of the present farmer." Then came the Co-operative Farm Demonstration movement.

The Federal Government took up the work in States infested by the boll weevil, holding that this was an interstate menace, and the General Education Board confined its operations to other States.

"The following table summarizes the total cost of the Southern work thus far and shows the source of the funds by means of which it has been carried on:

| Year | Government | General Education Board | Other Sources |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1902-04 | $27,316.04 | ..... | ..... |
| 1904-06 | 40,165.79 | ..... | ..... |
| 1906-08 | 40,000.00 | $[illegible] | ..... |
| 1906-07 | 40,000.50 | 30,000.00 | $1,500.00 |
| 1907-08 | 85,001.85 | 59,500.00 | 4,200.00 |
| 1908-09 | 106,370.34 | 76,000.00 | 14,297.66 |
| 1909-10 | 220,449.17 | 102,000.00 | 58,714.83 |
| 1910-11 | 278,826.53 | 115,000.00 | 28,622.66 |
| 1911-12 | 363,725.19 | 157,000.00 | 177,024.21 |
| 1912-13 | 356,441.81 | 140,000.00 | 272,646.47 |
| 1913-14 | 376,000.00 | 252,000.00 | *480,000.00 |
| Total | $1,922,299.52 | $926,700.00 | $1,059,405.33 |

*Approximate.

"In less than a decade 'other sources'—i. e., the Southern people themselves, were paying almost 50 per cent. of the total annual expenditure, approaching $1,200,000, thus vindicating the policy on which the board had acted.

"Fortunately the value of the demonstration has been so clear that the Federal Government will now take over and extend purely educational farm demonstrations; success has dissipated the constitutional scruple that for the last ten years has restricted governmental activities in this direction to plague infested States."

## "LANDMARK" COPPERS RETIRED.

### For 18 Years Superintendent of the Criminal Courts Building.

"I suppose I ought to be thankful, but I'm not. I've been so active all my life that I don't know how to loaf."

This is what Ed Coppers said yesterday about his being retired from the city's service at the age of 75. He will be pensioned on New Year's Day.

For eighteen years he was superintendent of the Criminal Courts Building in Manhattan and it almost broke his heart when he was transferred to Brooklyn three years ago to be janitor of a public school. Every one who had business in the Criminal Courts knew him and he could call most of them by their first names. Judges, district attorneys, criminal lawyers, policemen—for twenty years back they have all known Ed Coppers.

The Coppers family came to New York from London when Ed was in his teens and settled in the old Fourth ward. He learned the printers' trade, enlisted in the Twelfth New York Volunteers at the beginning of the civil war and served under Gen. Daniel Butterfield. Later he enlisted in the navy and served on the flagship of Admiral Farragut. After the war he worked at a dozen jobs, went broke as a hotel keeper on Staten Island and then began working for the city.

The prospect isn't for a happy New Year with Ed, because he doesn't know how to loaf.

## WESTCHESTER CO. TO CUT RATES

### Public Service Board Says Electricity Prices Are Too High.

ALBANY, Dec. 25.—The Public Service Commission of the Second District has made a decision on the complaints of residents of White Plains, Port Chester, Tarrytown, North Tarrytown, Irvington and Eastchester against the Westchester Lighting Company.

The opinion, by Commissioner Maurice S. Decker, holds that respondent's minimum electricity rate of 15 cents a kilowatt hour in the districts affected is excessive, unreasonable and unjust and for the future should not exceed 12 cents a kilowatt hour, and also that respondent's minimum monthly rate of $1 is excessive and should be reduced to 75 cents.

As to gas rates the commission says that upon the valuation [illegible] the company's income does not afford a rate of return which can be [illegible] a lawful order in these proceedings. It strongly recommends that the company reduce its gas charges in these districts to $1.25 a thousand cubic feet as a maximum rate and put in even lower rates in the thickly settled portions of the Port Chester, White Plains and Tarrytown districts.

Most of the income charge [illegible] in the last four years, reducing the Westchester company's net revenue, since the $10,000,000 mortgage bonds and $2,500,000 debenture bonds placed on property in 1904 in the transfer of control to the Consolidated Gas Company. This was before the establishment of the Public Service Commission and [illegible] given weight in its decision.

Figures of valuation placed by the company on its gas and electric properties in the Port Chester, Tarrytown, White Plains districts and elsewhere were $6,800,000. The commission, in determining the amount on which the company was entitled to return, reduced it to $4,300,000.

Eastchester's gas rate is treated separately, and it is recommended that a material reduction be made. Present rates are: Port Chester, $1.40 a thousand cubic feet and $1.25 for fuel; White Plains, $1.40 for light and fuel; Tarrytown, $1.50 for light and $1.25 for fuel; Eastchester, $1.50 for light and fuel.

## GETS BIG ORDERS IN EUROPE

### Pittsburg Promoter Says U. S. Can Land $600,000,000 Worth a Year.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 25.—Carloads of orders calling for $1,000,000 worth of Pittsburg products and enthusiastic over the opportunity abroad, J. Rodgers [illegible], president of the Pittsburg Foreign Trade Commission, arrived home yesterday after a month and a half's business trip in Europe.

"There is a foreign trade of $600,000,000 annually coming to the United States on a 'silver platter' if we will only take it," said Mr. Flannery. "The war represents the business France, Germany and Russia transacted with Germany before the war."