The Sun.

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The Half Way House.

The Congress which ends, subject to manipulation of the clock, at 12 noon to-day, is likely long to keep "the record" for perpetuity of session and multitudinous volume of speech. In the main, it has been, so far as the Democratic majority in it is concerned, the register and echo of the commanding will in the White House. With respect to the few and self-sacrificing original Democratic talents in it, the greatest and the most tolerant of which goes with OSCAR UNDERWOOD to the Senate, it would be time lost to review the work of the Sixty-third Congress as its own. One absorbing personality has with all good and honorable intention merged the Legislative in the Executive. A strong character, stronger by its very narrowness, absorbed, or seemed to absorb, two-thirds of the functions of the Federal Government and the whole Democratic party.

Yet the most monopolistic genius can derange only for a time the orderly procession of political thought and action. The Democracy, meek after a long exile, and longing unutterably for the fleshpots, could not surrender permanently that individualistic and independent attitude, that local and uncentralized freedom of thought, which through many absurd and sudden surrenders, borrowings and reversals, still maintains, even through its later populistic and socialistic backsliding, something of the old Jeffersonian tang. A people or a party blindly submissive to a chief, however admirable, contradicts the sound instincts and long traditions of the Democratic party, which through a thousand errors and even if it surrenders, or seems to surrender, to paternalistic theories, its fated opposite, keeps its hold, if it is to keep it, upon the people solely by being the voice of the many.

Let us praise, then, for well they merit praise for momentous public service, the seven Democratic Senators who resisted the order from the White House to pass the ship purchase bill, so sinister in its potencies, economically so unsound and so absolutely undemocratic. Let us praise likewise every Democratic Senator and Representative who has dared to assert the just constitutional function of his post against the steady monopolistic thirst of power at the other end of the Avenue. These United States are supposed to be governed according to the Constitution, and not the desires, however beneficent, of any man or superman.

Mr. WILSON'S volition, exerted through this Congress, and occasionally against the will of that body, for the last two years to be regarded as a sort of old French parliament, existing to register edicts, has done considerable of good and much that is doubtful. The Federal Reserve act, no exclusive Democratic memorial, by the way, is perhaps its or his best achievement. So far as politics, and the most parochial brand of politics, can be kept out of its administration, it promises to be fruitful. Mr. WILSON'S veto of the immigration bill will always be an honor to him. So will be his insistence on the national faith as to Panama tolls.

But where was his fine courage when he had to approve or disapprove contiguous exemption of associations of farmers and laborers which the fourth branch of the Federal Government, the Hon. SAMUEL GOMPERS, stuck into the Clayton act?

As to his tariff, which popularly bears Mr. UNDERWOOD'S name, the revenues and the manufacturers give sufficient testimony.

As to men whom he regarded fitted to do the work of the all regulating Trade Commission, there is no need to speak. To business men they seem strange officers under the New Constitution of Business and the New Freedom; but let the end crown the work.

In such phrases, to which "the service of mankind" may be added as one of the most bitterly ironic in view of the sacrifice of many American lives and most American interests in Mexico, we seem to find the essential Mr. WILSON, apart from his inflexible tenacity of purpose and avoidance of advice. He is an incorrigible Platonist. His idea is more than the fact; indeed, the fact is but the faint shadow of the idea. How many men with great business interests in Mexico have tried, and have not been allowed, to tell him what they believed to be the trouble? How many business men, before he saw the danger of alienating that outlaw class, have tried to set before him the facts of business? In vain. He is an intuitionist. And he is presiding at the meeting of a docile faculty. To say this is to say nothing disparaging of an academic mind, full of subtleties but supplemented with high energy, passion for command, and a belief, and just belief, in his intellectual powers, in the ardor of his patriotism, in his high soaring desire for the good of mankind and his reelection. But no man can dislocate himself from his past. As a don Mr. WILSON has learned to be impatient of contradiction and unswerved in his purpose. His "team" work consists in unfaltering obedience to the captain.

Within a few months—and the time of a certain voluntary intellectual degradation, if the term may be used without offence, begins with the Indianapolis speech—Mr. WILSON has sought to break out from that cloistered loneliness which is his natural habitat. He is a political eremite, a permanent solitary, a well bred S. ROMUALD. There is a lofty dignity in that isolation. But if EDWARD EVERETT were he now among us, should try to be GEORGE M. COHAN, would the result be happy?

To give these frank impressions of a salient, vital and always interesting character is not to forget the inalienable respect which is due to a President of the United States who, even more than Mr. ROOSEVELT, has realized the elastic capabilities of that post, nor to misunderstand the charm of a scholar's temperament associated by a rare good fortune with great power and its enjoyment. Nor is it to forget for a moment that party politics "stops at the water's edge" and that the whole country will support Mr. WILSON in manly defence of its rights and the rights of neutrals against the aggressions of belligerents on international law. It has been said in apology for the Democratic party in power that the war has thrown business and the revenues out of gear and that the beneficent results of Democratic policy have been obscured thereby. Just to the contrary, we hold that the war has been Mr. WILSON'S best friend: that it has created a feeling of indulgence and at times an artificial solidarity of opinion that have delayed or concealed the actual Democratic fracture and the end of a popular illusion. On account of the war Americans strive to forget the Pantaloon whom Mr. WILSON, for political reasons, inserted into the State Department and the Harlequin of the Navy.

What, after all, and with a full appreciation of the good intentions of Mr. WILSON, is the feeling among at least a plurality of Americans as Mr. WILSON stands at the doors of the Half Way House? Is it not one of patient or impatient semi-resignation and hope? "The doctor tells me I can get up in two weeks"; how many a man has said that with enthusiasm! Well, perhaps the United States can get up in two years.

The Strengthening of the Navy.

Congress did a splendid piece of work when it passed a naval appropriation bill providing not only for the construction of two dreadnoughts, six destroyers, and two fleet and sixteen coast defence submarines, but for an adequate aviation corps and a bureau of operations corresponding to the General Staff of the Army. Nothing could have been more puerile than the objection raised by the "little navy" men that to give the service a "general staff" would be to foist upon it an institution like the British Admiralty, which they seemed to think was a synonym for ruinous incompetency or caste dry rot.

A bureau of operations has been sorely needed and a long time coming. There will be no more boards of strategy feverishly called into being in a perilous emergency. The bureau of operations will go on continuously, and anticipate the next war with plans carefully prepared. There need be no fear that an incompetent officer will be made Chief of Naval Operations, for the President's appointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate. Moreover, the head of the bureau will be "under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy."

The appropriation of $1,000,000 for the aviation corps may seem moderate compared with the annual outlay of some of the European navies, but it will permit of a desirable expansion of the aerial service and is a guaranty that Congress will not neglect that branch in future. Perhaps it would have been well to double the number of oceangoing submarines authorized, as we have no underwater craft corresponding to the most formidable in the German navy; but since the lessons of the great sea power struggle are yet to be learned there may be wisdom in going slow with new submarine construction. It has been a great session for our first line of defence, and the people owe a debt of thanks to those courageous spirits in the navy as well as in Congress who exposed the grave deficiencies of the service.

Senator Burton Quits.

Senator BURTON of Ohio quits Congress in the full stature of a statesman. He had the intelligence and the persistence to inform himself on the subjects on which he gave counsel. When he indulged in generalities, he was ready and able to support them with specifications. His filibusters have been based on reason and knowledge. His partisanship has not been of the merely annoying variety. He had the courage that a man needs who carries ideals of economy, efficiency and business administration unimpaired from stump to Legislature, and he was as earnest for good government inside the Capitol as outside its walls.

In one Congress, Senator BURTON saved, by his opposition to river and harbor bills, not less than $50,000,000 of immediate, unnecessary, wasteful and indefensible appropriations. What the contingent savings would amount to, nobody can pretend to say. And these contributions to sane economy merely index Senator BURTON'S service. They do not measure it.

A good and useful Senator, ably performing the essential labors of a Senator: what a discouraging incident of political life it is that he retires while so many of the windbags hold their seats!

The Priest of "Highball Marriages."

The Rev. PERCY STICKNEY GRANT, B. A., B. D., S. T. D., rector of the Church of the Ascension (Episcopal), is celebrating Lent by denouncing the canon of the Episcopal Church on divorce and uttering these fine, careless raptures and loosenesses:

"A marriage is founded on the affection of two persons for each other. With the disappearance of such sentiment disappears the only ground for marriage. * * *

"If the only basis for marriage is love, why, in the event of that love being changed to loathing, should the marriage continue?"

Why does the Rev. PERCY STICKNEY GRANT, B. A., B. D., S. T. D., stay in a church and draw a fat wage from a church which holds an ancient and ignoble notion about marriage as a sacramental and indissoluble bond? "For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part." Vain promises of antique couples. When desire fades, when either the woman or the man is tired of the troth so plighted, why over the rails to Reno. Irreverently, indiscreetly, inadvisedly, drunkenly and without the fear of God. Marriage exists for "love"; go and "love" and marry, according to fancy and the decrees of easy courts.

We have given the Rev. PERCY and So Forth his titles and description to show that he is an Episcopalian clergyman, though he doesn't talk it.

Marriage for "love"! In the blunt phrase of early morning Broadway, "highball marriage."

Colonel WILLIAM HAYWARD, counsel to the legislators who "investigated" the Public Service Commission for the First District, is justly grieved to find that the committee wants to report to the body that commissioned it, under authority of which it acted, and to which its report is due, and not to the Governor who is expected to give him a good job.

Uncle "IKE" STEPHENSON of Wisconsin retires from the Senate to-day at the age of 84, unconcerned about the problem of resisting mental and physical deterioration. Like the Kaiser, Uncle "IKE" says, "If I rest I rust." Accordingly he will resume the business of lumbering and banking, in which there is much interplay and therefore sure profit. In his ninth lustre the nimble old gentleman may tackle the primaries for another turn in the Senate. Primaries entail expenses. He can meet them.

The L-1, described as "the largest submarine thus far building for the United States navy," was recently launched at Quincy, Mass. She is 165 feet over all, with a displacement of 450 tons, and a contract speed of fourteen knots on the surface and ten knots below. The L-1 would not be considered a remarkable submarine by the Germans. They have seven boats in commission which are 213 feet long, have a displacement of 900 tons, and a speed of twenty knots on the surface and twelve below, with a radius of action of 2,000 miles.

President WILSON, it is said, will take personal charge of the "international situation" upon the adjournment of Congress to-day. Mr. BRYAN will interpose no objection. One night stands in a travelling radius of 150 miles from Washington cramp his genius. He longs for a circuit tour that will permit of a liberal itinerary. Sudden sallies and short talks try Mr. BRYAN'S soul and contract his revenue. His lungs are in sad need of exercise. He would like to talk himself out. That is his idea of a vacation. He will be glad to turn the "international situation" over to the President for an indefinite period.

One of Mr. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER'S pastors testifies warmly that "he doesn't fear anything on earth." If that is the case the wonder is that his name has not appeared in the Carnegie hero medal gazette.

Senator ROOT quotes an unnamed ex-President as describing unnamed officers on the active list of the navy as "a lot of wheezy, undersized old stuffed puddings." If Mr. ROOT doesn't look out the ex-President may divulge what the Senator said when he was Secretary of War about the capacity of some of the brigadiers when there was a vacancy in the list of major-generals.

It should be understood by paragraphers and newspaper poets that TEHEE of Tahlequah, whom the President has nominated as Register of the Treasury, is a serious, responsible lawyer, a leader of the Oklahoma bar.

We trust that the Legislature will not be so indiscreet as to do anything which may interfere with the profits of contractors on public works.

An American residing in Brazil will exhibit at the Horticultural Society's show this month a plant that bites like a rattlesnake and curls up its petals in fright when sharply spoken to. It will attract little attention, because its characteristics are entirely familiar to all who have to do with politicians.

MR. MURPHY'S PLANS.

Advance Notice of the Fall Political Circus of 1915.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Charles Francis Murphy, according to the latest news from the Wigwam, intends to have the reformers jumping through hoops this fall, and doing other stunts that will show that when he wills it he can hold the political uplifters of New York in the hollow of the hand that has never done a day's work since it stopped driving on the old Eighteenth street horse car line, or was it on the Second avenue?

Mr. Murphy intends to renominate the three reform Supreme Court Judges, Clark, Greenbaum and Shearn, annex two Tammany bank rolls to complete the list, with a District Attorney and Sheriff thrown in.

Under the guise of a reformer Charley intends to make a whirlwind finish and win. Is the public asleep?

NEW YORK, March 3. A. WARE.

THE JUDGMENT OF JUDAS.

Then saith Judas Iscariot * * * Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor—*John xii., 4, 5.*

Judas Iscariot frowning sat
Upon the judgment seat;
His board of Pharisees laughed and sneered
And shuffled around their feet.
The mob that packed the City Hall
With open mouths enjoyed it all.

"Bring in them caitiffs; yank them in,
To answer for their crimes.
Pollers, they wallers in millions o' dollars
While we count only dimes;
And worse and worse is that from their purses
They shake their millions in grace—
This is the worst—in the name accurst
Of a thing called philanthrope.
The thing for a jeer; let the whole hearse sneer
At their philanthrope!"
And the mob that packed the City Hall
Jeered and sneered and enjoyed it all.

And in came one white haired and old
And little and brisk and pert,
And never a sign of a pin of gold
Nor a diamond in his shirt.
"Now, answer," said Judas, "tell us flat
What sort of game is this you're at,
Robbin' Peter and pestonin' Paul
And makin' abject slaves of us all.
Pitin' your charity so when yer gone
Its cussedly work will still go on.
Libraries, hospitals, hero funds,
Dollars and marks and francs and pounds.
Always at it and never done,
For every blessed thing under the sun
That smells of mercy, pity and such
For Yankees, Scotchmen, French or Dutch?"
And the mob that packed the City Hall
With jeering Judas enjoyed it all.

The old man answered as he stood:
"I'm only trying to do some good.
I've won some coin in battling trade,
And I'm the Old Man of his Money Afraid.
Not one of you all I'd freely bet
Is bitten that way, at least not yet.
My heart's wide open to all my kind
Who toil and strive with body and mind.
To the wrecked good man, to the underdog,
But not to the grafting demagogue.
To widow or orphan in the slums,
But not to the army of City Hall bums.
You laugh, you flout, but so do I:
For what is this crowd that meets my eye?"
He looked around, but there wasn't a sound.
And Judas Iscariot swallowed his gall.
And the crowd sat dumb in the City Hall.

Then came one in, tall, shaven and gray,
And took his place in the witness chair,
Smiling around in a kindly way
From eyes long dimmed with many a care.

"Ah, you," yelled Judas, "the king, the chief
Of the gorged philanthropists all men scorn,
Scatterin' millions in curst relief,
So men may bless the day you were born.
Love of your fellow man in your mouth,
Foundin' colleges, buildin' schools,
Makin' the old and the young your tools,
Stampin' out hookworm in the South,
Patron saint of Y. M. C. A.,
Boss of the Medical Institute,
Usin' your millions to kill disease
And cheat the graveyard of its prey
Makin' a war on fith and fleas;
Friend of the halt and the lame and the brute.
What have you to say? Why sit there mute?
A hundred millions you've given the nation
On a damned foundation
That hangs its interest round our necks,
Forever the liver and lungs to vex
Of men of thrifty minds like me
A Damocles blade
To make us afraid,
For our very lives and liberty——"

The aged witness smiling heard,
And timidly, humbly spake this word:
"If I might observe, if I might say,
The afternoon is slipping away.
I would be gone while yet 'tis day
My fourth ship laden with foodstuffs waits
To take its way to Dover Straits
And feed the starving homeless ones
Who crawl in the trail of the shattering guns.
Surely, your sympathy you'll accord,
In the Holy Name of our Blessed Lord."

A cloud from the Woolworth Building tall
Flung sudden darkness like a pall;
A cry was heard like the Lord's to Saul
And Judas crept from where he sat;
The Pharisees from where they spat,
The witness meekly disappeared.
And the crowd that packed the City Hall
No longer gaped, no longer jeered,
But asked each other, What meant it all?

VINDEX.

The First Jolt!

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am 55, my hair is dark, my mustache is gray. This morning a young man offered me his seat in a subway train. Gosh!

NEW YORK, March 3. C. J. M.

NEW YORK.

A Good Town, Worthy of an Occasional Defence.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The altogether admirable article in THE SUN entitled "Why Pay to Have New York Lied About?" deserves a word of special commendation from all residents of this town.

New York needs no defence, but you do well to take to task a foreign blatherskite for his impertinence and ignorance. We are hardly popular now anywhere among our countrymen. Jealousy, malice and all uncharitableness are on every hand. We are game for everybody. Even the august wiseacres of the national capital have not spared us. We are both rich and bad, and must be punished.

Of the income tax paid last year, New York State paid 41 per cent. of the whole and New York city 26 per cent. This is rather aside from the main point of your article, which is such a deft combination of rapier thrusts and sledge hammer blows that it leaves little to be said but amen. You are absolutely right in saying that nowhere in the world is there a city of its size the streets of which are so free of offence.

I sometimes think that much of the animus levelled at our city by outsiders for our alleged moral shortcomings has its origin in two main causes, first, a false perspective, and second, and perhaps still more the vain spirit of the pharisee. Most of us, I fancy, have had frequent occasion in visiting the smaller cities and towns to correct the point of view of our neighbors. They do not really know us. The New York morning papers may contain accounts of perhaps some half dozen or more divorces, but it is needless to say that it would be quite erroneous to conclude that pretty much everybody in New York was either contemplating or getting a divorce. It is the extraordinary not the ordinary things that are printed in the newspapers; and this is so everywhere the world over.

But the other phase of the subject, the spirit of the pharisee, is insufferable. Whether on or off the streets, we can affirm with complete truth that we are quite as good as our neighbors; and for the present state of human nature, this is enough to say. The country townsman or villager who comes here to lecture us, whether for pay or for nothing, is all the while thanking God that he and his town are not as other men are. He will bear watching. His own townsmen would do well to keep an eye upon him.

The late Recorder Smyth, while sentencing a criminal who had been caught and convicted here of a scandalous offence, took the occasion to denounce him as one of a large class of people who visited New York for the purpose of indulging in practices that should not be mentioned; then, after a more or less prolonged and hectic sojourn among the denizens of the underworld, determined by opportunity and the depth of their purses, they return home to inveigh against the wickedness of our town.

There was a good deal of truth in the late Mayor Gaynor's saying that people who occupy so much time in talking about the vice of New York must have a large measure of it in their own heads. Some years ago I sat at a club table with a company of men which included the delightful Max O'Rell, the late M. Paul Blouet. The gossip turned upon Paris. A recently returned traveller bored us quite a while with his denunciations of the open vice of that capital. Max finally came to our rescue, by asking: "Where did you go?" WILLIAM C. DAVIS.

NEW YORK, March 3.

KULTUR.

Regrettably Prejudiced View of It by a Nutmegger.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In yesterday's SUN I read the Kaiser's definition of "Kultur" is "deepest conscience and highest mortals"; and the Kaiser goes on to claim these two great moral attributes as being possessed by "his Germans" in a much greater degree than by the English people.

On another page of the same paper I read of the investigation by the Federal Grand Jury in New York of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company for breaking the neutrality laws of this country by making charters of neutral ships of other nations and then by secret bribery of the captains of the chartered vessels to deliver the cargoes surreptitiously to German men-of-war. I have many times seen it reported in different papers that the Kaiser is one of the largest share owners of this great Government subsidized company. Does not such action on their part rather point to the true meaning of "Kultur" as practised by many Germans or German-Americans in this country?

In the same SUN I read of the investigation by this Government of the plot by Germans, which involves at least one of the members of the German Embassy at Washington, to procure fraudulent passports to send Germans home to fight for the Fatherland. Only another way of interpreting "Kultur" probably. Does it not look as if the Kaiser left out the principal ingredient in his definition of "Kultur," plain and unadulterated hypocrisy? This is the way it looks to an old reader of THE SUN. BILL NYE.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., March 2.

Kultur's Perfect Work.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* President Wilson should proclaim an anti-kultural war zone to prevent any more German Kultur from getting into this country. Almost simultaneously we have three instances of it. Two cultured reporters of the *Staats-Zeitung* tried to blackmail a woman into making a false statement exonerating that exponent of culture Captain Boy-Ed; five officers and agents of the Hamburg-American Line have been indicted for making false manifests in furnishing culture, coal and food supplies to the German cruisers Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse and Karlsruhe, and Captains Boy-Ed and Von Papen are charged with complicity in obtaining false but cultured passports for German reservists. These charges may all be "bunk," to use the expression of that other exponent of culture Dr. Dernburg, but so much Kultur spread around the streets of New York and Washington makes it slippery going for hyphenated Americans.

LAWRENCE GODKIN.

NEW YORK, March 3.

THE FRAMEUP.

An Indignant Protest in Behalf of Honest Newspaper Men.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Where have the honor and esprit du corps of the press disappeared to? The honor of the Fourth Estate has always been held in high esteem, but recent events lead one to think that many of your contemporaries have forgotten what their predecessors jealously regarded.

Look at the Stegler case, reported last night and this morning. It is all very well for the reporters involved to say that the expedition was taken on their own account, but newspaper men and the public know better. The reporter might do a great deal to obtain a beat, but as a rule he is careful to keep the skirts of his coat clear of the police court, besides which there are never funds in hand for dinners at expensive restaurants, limousines, private rooms in hotels, &c.

The cashier of the office has got to be called upon where funds for this sort of thing are necessary, and usually the cashier does not authorize such expenditure without the approval of the manager or proprietor, hence one can only conclude that the case in question was deliberately planned with the acquiescence and approval of the employers of the reporters in question, and that they provided their men with the necessary funds for the work. A.

NEW YORK, March 2.

COST OF GOVERNMENT.

Federal, State and Municipal Expenditures Must Be Reduced.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Many thousands of the inhabitants of the city of New York escape the direct payment to tax gatherers of any money whatever, and have been thereby led to favor the lavish expenditure of public moneys. Every one of them, however, bears his share of the cost of government, Federal, State and municipal, in the "high cost of living," about which we hear so much from the politicians in their party platforms before election and never a word in the subsequent discussion of appropriation bills. The poorer a family is the more is it forced to buy at retail and therefore at the highest prices; as, for instance, while the ordinary householder grumbles at having to pay $6.50 a ton for his winter's supply of coal delivered in his cellar, the dwellers in tenement houses, who buy coal by the pailful and carry it home, pay at the rate of fully $10 a ton, nor can the coal be thus retailed to them for less.

That those inhabiting this city pay more than their per capita share of the cost of governing New York State is notorious. So also that those inhabiting New York State pay more than their per capita share of governing the United States; take, for instance, the tax on the incomes of individuals, of which more than 44 per cent. of all that was collected in the United States was taken from inhabitants of New York State, although they number only about 10 per cent. of the population of the United States.

But let us see what the mere per capita cost of government is on an average to every man, woman and child inhabiting the city of New York:

Federal Government.	
Ordinary disbursements (exclusive of appropriations for and receipts from postal service, which amounted to some $200,000,000 or $300,000,000, all coming out of the pockets of the people)	$7.67
State Government.	
Expenditures in 1914, (exclusive of transfers between funds which amounted to $74,411,896)	5.51
City Government.	
Per capita cost of budget appropriations in 1914	34.11
Total	$46.72

The year 1914 is taken because there was then no "State tax." This year, 1915, we are promised a State tax of $22,000,000, of which the city of New York will have to pay about 80 per cent., $17,600,000, equal to $3.15 additional per capita.

The foregoing shows that in 1914 it cost every man, woman and child living in the city of New York on an average $46.72 a year to be governed. Government is costing more than it is worth, and vastly more than it should. It is useless to inquire who is to blame. The one thing to do is to remedy existing conditions. The only possible remedy lies in reducing appropriations, and that can only be effected by curtailing government activities. Most men confronted with a like situation, and all honest ones, would forthwith cut off their expenses. Government, whether Federal, State or municipal, should be compelled to do likewise.

The case has been stated above with reference to individuals. To the average bread earning member of a family of five, including himself, the situation is that it costs $233.60 a year to be governed. We have fifty-two Sundays in the year, nine or ten public holidays and twenty-six half holidays on Saturdays. Assuming, however, that by industry a man may work 300 days, it remains that for every possible working day in the year it costs the average head of a family 78 cents to be governed. Can it be wondered at that business is depressed and that the "cost of living" is high? Is it not time that the people should demand of their rulers that this senseless waste in every branch of government be stopped and stopped now? STUYVESANT FISH.

NEW YORK, March 3.

ADVANCED FEMINISM.

Plain Language About an Evil Growth on the Suffrage Cause.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There is much written these days for and against suffrage and feminism. A suffragist is not necessarily a feminist. A feminist is always a suffragist.

The full meaning of "feminism" is not yet well understood in this country, especially advanced feminism. As a matter of fact, it is a subtle form of anarchy, not socialism, which in its best and broad sense is a humanitarian institution, but of anarchy, which revolts against all laws, order and conventions (which means primarily the protection of women and the home); it advocates free love, free thought, which means as a rule no God, the same moral code for man and woman, or rather none, no marriage, children born of free love to be brought up by institutions run by the State, and all the degradation which would bring civilization back to the primeval period.

Progressives are they? No, reactionaries! They would drag down the morals and pervert the mind of every woman by their false promises, they want to take away, but have nothing to give. This influence is more dangerous than the country realizes, as it means destruction instead of building up, decadence instead of advancement, chaos instead of order.

EDITH B. THOMPSON.

AIKEN, S. C., March 2.

The Rise of Woman.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why shouldn't woman forge ahead of man if she has the ability to do it? I would like to ask Ella Benedict Burkman if she would hesitate to forge ahead of another woman, especially if by so doing she could benefit the human race?

There is no reason in Kultur, ethics or common sense why man should any longer be coddled and petted by woman. Woman has beaten him in an open, free for all race; she hasn't won the place she holds by man's help, for man has persistently and pestiferously tried to keep her down.

Equality, political or social, has nothing to do with it, for man is no longer woman's equal in anything.

Ever since the day man's "shape within the watery gleam appeared" so subtly poised by man that Eve would see him mirrored in a lake as pure as the sky and whose impeccable waters concealed his tricky and vacillating nature and pictured him a being of marvellous beauty, crowned with a halo of intellectual clarity and poetic sympathy, woman has been fooled.

Put her foot on his neck? Man is mighty lucky to get off so easily.

SOCIOLOGIST.

NEW CANAAN, CONN., March 3.

Billy the Destroyer.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Billy Sunday is destroying the last lingering vestige of respect for the old religious superstitions.

In this valuable work he should have the approval of every intelligent and sincerely religious person. F. S. T.

SALEM, MASS., March 2.

Should They Get a Medal?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why would not the decoration with a Carnegie medal be an appropriate method of rewarding the bravery of the policemen who arrested the anarchists in their attempt to blow up the Cathedral?

NEW YORK, March 3. E. TRESON.

"The Polish Nuns' Song."

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The above song was written by Longfellow and may be found in any copy of his poems. N. N. J.

NEW YORK, March 3.

HELP STILL NEEDED.

A Letter From Paris Describes Plight of Refugees.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The following letter, just received from Paris, was written by Mrs. Shurtleff, the American pastor's wife in the Latin Quarter. Contributions, either of clothing or money, sent to Miss Hollingsworth, Pier 57, North River, for Mrs. Shurtleff will be forwarded direct to her:

"Refugees who are in Paris come to be fitted out with clothes, and here the packages are arranged for the blind refugees who have been unable to reach Paris and who are living near the battle front. We have just had such a pathetic letter from one such family bombarded out of Lens and now living at Ourull, which is about seventeen kilometers from Dethune, where heavy fighting is taking place. This man with six children, three of whom are blind, is living in an empty house which has been lent him and is without the barest necessities. The clothing they had on when they escaped is all they have. We are sending a change of garments to each member of this family of eight. So near the battle line are they that the package cannot be sent by train and will have to go by special messenger.

"Yesterday we had a family of seven at the 'Vestiaire' who had just escaped from their village home near Soissons. The old grandmother in this family had a difficult time getting away. She could not walk fast enough along the shell ploughed roads, and some soldiers who were passing with an ammunition wagon took pity on her and put her into the wagon and covered her over, saying: 'Don't allow yourself to be seen as we might be shot if we were caught doing this, which is strictly against orders.' In this way the old woman reached the railroad and so escaped. We were able to give entire change of garments to the children of this group and some warm wraps to the older women, as well as some undergarments. This family needs blankets, as they are suffering very much with the cold these bitter night. We had no blankets, but a friend is making them a covering out of newspapers and an old curtain. Nothing is wasted in Paris these days. We treasure every scrap of cloth and paper and string.

"One of the most interesting cases of the past week was a blind, paralyzed man from Rheims, who with his wife and daughter have lived for months under the terrific bombardment to which the city has been subjected. For weeks they took refuge in the caves with some four thousand other refugees. This man, in spite of his handicaps, had a very successful brush commerce and made a comfortable living for himself and family. Now everything has been destroyed, and, middle aged, blind and paralyzed, he finds himself without home, clothes or money. His wife and daughter came to us blue with the cold, with only their openwork shawls as wraps. We have been able to give them warm clothing, but so far have not found any work for the women, who beg for it with tears in their eyes. If some of the good women of America would only send us wool we could pay these women 1.25 francs a pair to knit it into socks for the Belgian soldiers, who are in great need of socks. Indeed, if we only had wool we could give work to many poor women who can find no means of earning their bread. They will knit all day for 12 cents. We have a number of blind women who are most anxious to make socks at this price. There is also much need among the mothers with little babies, whose husbands are at the front.

"I wish I could fly with this letter and tell you and the American givers how much their help is needed and how much good even a little money will do."

We are still collecting clothing, and anything received by the American Girls' Aid will be forwarded to the Clearing House, which has official lists of all the towns, cities and villages in France harboring refugees.

To date we have shipped 846 cases of clothing and supplies.

GLADYS HOLLINGSWORTH.

NEW YORK, March 3.

FARMING.

Not an Occupation by Which an Unskilled Man Can Live.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* You say that if the unemployed "want farm work they can get it." Perhaps, but for how long? Our farmers have work for hired help during the planting and harvesting seasons, but little or none at all during the rest of the year. Workingmen cannot live a year on a few months pay.

Then there is the question of where shall the unemployed look for the farmer. Also there is the question of fare. No man will make a wild goose chase into the rural regions. There must be something definite. He must be certain of the job and must know how and be able to do the work the farmer wants done. The farmer must feed the man. He will not pay him in any event until April or May, and will not need him again until the harvest time comes, and then only until the harvest is over.

I had an opportunity of learning the conditions in Steuben county some years ago. A Democratic orator had visited a farming town in that county during a political campaign and stated that the mortgages on the farms were as thick as the shingles on the barns. The next day I asked a group of villagers if that statement was true, and if so, why. One man said it was true to an extent, and gave as a reason for it that the farmers whose farms were mortgaged had run into debt for newfangled machinery, buggies and other things that they did not need. Another villager, an old Irish laborer, aged about 80, said that in the old days there was farm work to be done all the year round, but the grain was now all threshed out by machinery, whereas previously the farmhands had work all winter threshing out grain by flailing it.

One of the group, a country storekeeper, was the owner of 2,000 acres of farming land which he had taken for debt. Credit was the rock that the farmers who lost their farms had split on. There is nothing more chimerical than the idea of a city man who knows nothing of farming hunting a farming job without at least some assurance that the job is obtainable and for long enough to enable him to subsist when there is no work for him. The farms are too large. They should be divided into small parcels that one man and his family can work without hiring help. An individual owner of property, especially land, is by far the best asset of the State. He represents its thrift and its intelligence. He gets a tax bill, which is the best reader. Nothing sharpens the civic sense like a tax bill. Hence, if more men can be planted on the farms as owners and not as servants, the public welfare will be advanced.

The question is a practical one. No man can wrest a living from the soil without an education relating to the soil. Competent instruction, as well as brawn and capital, is required.

E. B. DONGE.

NEW YORK, March 3.

A Yearning "Fan."

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When is Judge Landis going to render a decision in the famous baseball case that was argued before him in Chicago some weeks ago by the attorneys representing the Federal League and organized ball? The world war, the high cost of bread, the seizure of the Dacia, the passport scandal, the failure of the Chicago Opera Company, Mme. Klaw's reply to William A. Brady on the cut rate ticket question, do not worry me in the least, but if Judge Landis doesn't render a decision soon I'm afraid I cannot stand the strain much longer. CUM GRANO SALIS.

NEW YORK, March 3.

SHOWS WEAKNESSES IN INCOME TAX LAW

Mortimer L. Schiff Asserts There Is Need of Revision of Statute.

FOR LOWER EXEMPTIONS

In a comprehensive and thoroughly interesting article in the *Annals* of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Mortimer L. Schiff of the banking firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Co. points out many weaknesses in the methods used for the collection of the income tax. Although he does not question the income tax as a form of raising revenue he does assert that the law is subject to so many misunderstandings, requires so many rulings and has so many defects that there is need of revision.

Mr. Schiff asserts that the income tax meets none of the maxims set down by Adam Smith with regard to taxation. After outlining those maxims Mr. Schiff says emphatically:

"The citizens of this country are not required under our laws to contribute toward the support of the Government as nearly as possible in proportion to their respective abilities. The tax is levied in a manner which is not generally convenient to the contributors who pay it. The expense of collection is so great that the tax is not so contrived as both to take out and keep out of the pockets of the people as little as possible over and above what it brings into the public treasury."

Mr. Schiff quotes the figures concerning the 357,598 individuals who paid the tax, of whom 278,835 were married and 78,763 were single. Then he says:

"This is considerably less than one-half of 1 per cent. of the population of the United States. Even assuming that each one of those married represents a family of five, we find that the tax was paid in respect to the income of some 1,472,938 individuals, or, in other words, that about 98½ per cent. of the people of the country escaped this form of taxation. As comparatively few pay any other form of direct tax the result is that the great bulk of our population contribute nothing directly to the State.

Thinks Exemptions Too High.

Mr. Schiff says the exemptions are too high and that they should be reduced. He attacks especially the system of collection at the source, saying it should be abandoned and a system of collection from the recipient of the income substituted, with information at the source and severe penalties for false statements concerning income. He says the collection of the tax at the source forces the disclosure of investments to others, which is objectionable to our own citizens and to some extent militates against American investments by foreigners who are disinclined to give such information.

"The method of collecting the tax," says Mr. Schiff, "has entailed tremendous expense on corporations disbursing interest to a mass of investors. It has burdened the companies with a vast amount of additional labor, both in the handling of the prescribed certificates and in the preparation of the monthly and yearly reports to the tax collector.

"One of the large railway corporations in this country states that the collection of the income tax at the source necessitated more than doubling the clerical force at its coupon and interest desks. This particular corporation estimates that it will have to handle more than 100,000 tax certificates a year, of which all those which show tax liability must be listed monthly in duplicate, and each one of these monthly returns requires the signature of the treasurer or assistant treasurer of the company making the return.

Cost to Corporations.

"It appears," says the writer, "that the actual cost to corporations, including withholding the tax at the source, from 10 per cent. to 20 per cent. of the amount collected for the Government, is an imposition upon the intermediary corporation of a very considerable sum for the Government without compensation. It is to be assumed that if the Government, on its part, at less cost to receive and tabulate these returns as it does the corporations make them, and that therefore the entire expense involved, covering the collection and recording of the tax withheld, amounts to from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. of the amount collected.

"In the case where interest is paid by the corporation itself, through a fiscal agent, such as a bank or trust company, additional expense is involved. Before the income tax went into effect most of these banks and trust companies, acting as paying agents, considered themselves ample rep