The Sun.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1915.

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

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY Per 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 00
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, Edingham 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.

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

Which?

Mayor MITCHEL, with President McANENY, Comptroller PRENDERGAST and President POUNDS, comprising the Board of Estimate Budget Committee, will go to Albany to-night to plead with the State officers for justice to this city. Their mission is of direct and immediate personal interest to every citizen.

Their only object is to prevent the State from adopting a new financial policy even more grievously burdensome to the people of this city than the inequitable methods by which the metropolis has been made in the past to bear a heavily disproportionate share of the State expenditures.

This proposed policy is sufficiently illustrated in the plan for a direct tax to raise $4,000,000 to pay the cost of canal construction. This is a capital investment, and hitherto the money for it has been raised by the sale of bonds. It is now proposed to carry the amount necessary to complete the canals, estimated at $27,000,000, in the annual appropriation bills, and collect it through a direct tax, of which this city must pay 70 per cent. The total amount would be raised in four years, and it would necessitate the addition of at least $5,000,000 to the city budget in each of these years.

This extraordinary reversal of policy is openly admitted by the chairman of the State Waterways Commission and the State officers. It has been accomplished without consultation between the State and city authorities. It is to be put into effect without regard to the condition of New York city, the needs of its citizens or the plight of its taxpayers. The State can do it; the State is going to do it; and beyond this there is to be no discussion.

The mission of the Budget Committee to Albany is for the guardianship of New York city. Is this community to be treated at Albany as an integral part of the State or as a captured province, fit only for looting?

The Sawdust Ring.

Is another established form of American amusement destined to disappear? Is the circus, which in the form it has possessed for half a century is genuinely native, to follow negro minstrelsy out of the taste of its public? There are already pessimists who say that the essential characteristic of American circus performances passed away altogether when the ring was surrounded by four walls instead of its canvas draperies and its roof became a fixed dimension. Did half its charm really reside in the temporary nature of the walls which housed it?

The excellent circus which is just now amusing its spectators in the home of all our circuses tarries within the walls of the Madison Square Garden but a short part of the period it used to spend there. Yet it has lost none of the quality which formerly made it welcome during a longer time. The circus which was visible at the Hippodrome could not well have been better so far as its entertainment was concerned, but it was powerless to hold at bay the advancing movies which have now taken its place. It happens that the circus performances are just now capable of being as excellent in quality as their promoters want to make them, since conditions in Europe have sent here the members of that profession usually employed abroad. Still, the old time enthusiasm about the acrobats and the clowns, the equestrians and the tight rope walkers, is not to be discovered.

Did the transient uncertainty then of the circus show help to make it attractive? Would it rain or would the sun shine? Would the mysterious palace of canvas be heavy with the untimely waters or would its walls stand white in the sunlight? The horses tethered outside, the flaming alcohol torches, the elephants swaying at their pegs in the scattered hay, the pink lemonade and the peanuts—were all these really such important characteristics of the circus as to take part of its charm and mystery along with them when they disappeared from the programmes?

Only a comparative statement of the success of the circus in its tents and between its brick walls would tell the story accurately. But who does not confess to a sense of loss that these characteristics of old time circus days have passed?

Our Malleable Fundamental Law.

The Constitution of the State of New York, to recast which a convention whose membership includes some highly distinguished citizens met in Albany yesterday, can be described as a rigid, outworn instrument of government imposing on the wisdom of the present the dead hand of the outgrown past only by those who ignore its provisions and the history of the process through which it has attained its present form. In itself is contained the order that the question "Shall there be a convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same?" must be submitted to the people in 1916, and at such times as the Legislature may provide, and the case with which it may be amended without a convention is shown by the changes that have been made in it in twenty years by the cooperation of the Legislature and the electors.

The work of the Constitutional Convention of 1894, over which JOSEPH H. CHOATE presided, was approved by the people at the election of that year, and went into effect on January 1, 1895. Since then thirty-one proposed amendments have been approved by the Legislature, each at two sessions, and voted on by the electors. These proposed amendments were designed to affect eight of the fifteen articles of the Constitution. Of them twenty-two were approved by the people, and were written into the Constitution. The subjects with which these dealt and the years in which they received popular indorsement are given in this table:

Subject.	*Year.*
Boards of Supervisors	1899
Municipal Debt Limitations	1899
Justices of Appellate Divisions	1899
Court of Appeals	1899
Exemptions from Taxation	1901
Municipal Debt Limitations	1905
State Debts	1905
Judicial Districts	1905
Organization of Cities	1905
Highways Improvement	1905
State Debts	1905
Justices of Appellate Divisions	1905
Municipal Debt Limitations	1907
Classification of Cities	1907
Pay of Supreme Court Justices	1909
Rate of Interest on Debts	1909
County Fiscal Officers	1909
Municipal Debt Limitations	1909
Private Property for Public Use	1913
Workmen's Compensation	1913
County Courts	1913
Forest Preserve	1913

Fifteen of these amendments were concerned with two subjects—the judiciary and the finances of the State and its subdivisions—and in spite of the frequent tinkerings they have undergone, the sections regulating them are highly unsatisfactory in their effects. One cause of their weakness is unquestionably found in the effort to control too minutely in the Constitution, an evil from which New York, while suffering less than some other States, is not free. It is, for example, ridiculous that when Kings needs another County Judge the whole State should be called on to vote whether he shall be employed. Yet the fact that provision was made for this judicial expansion by constitutional amendment, although it took a long time, the proposal having been defeated in 1911, is evidence that the Constitution is by no means beyond popular reach.

To this fact we owe the comparative lack of interest in the important assembly that gathered yesterday. If, for example, the workmen's compensation act were still held up by the prohibition of the Constitution, the campaign for the election of the delegates would have been at least well fought, and the public concern over their organization would be lively. But because the Constitution has grown with the needs of the State and has been altered to fit the desires of the citizens, its general revision excites comparatively little comment.

Financial and judicial reforms, and the conservation of natural resources, are expected to absorb the greater part of the time of the convention. But the political questions growing out of the increase of urban population will require serious thought, and the indisposition of dwellers in this city to submit to the injustices now imposed on them must find expression, and, if it is not heeded, may result in the rejection of the proposed Constitution, which will go to the electors this fall.

Cloture in the Senate.

In a legislative body where moving the previous question provides a means of ending debate, cloture for the Senate is sure to be popular. So when Mr. Speaker CLARK discusses the subject in the *North American Review* for April it is with a mind made up. He is right when he says that the House of Representatives with 435 members, exclusive of territorials and commissioners, "could not go very far" without the previous question. He points out that in the early days of the Republic, in fact long after Speaker MUHLENBERG, the first presiding officer, called only fifty-six members to order, no form of cloture was needed in the House of Representatives.

In 1812, when HENRY CLAY was serving his first term, JOHN RANDOLPH of Roanoke could talk himself out, and he sometimes held the floor for hours without having any right to be heard. It was not until CLAY himself became the presiding officer that the ruling was made, upon the motion of CALHOUN, that no member should address the House unless some bill, resolution, amendment or motion was pending. After CLAY was transferred to the Senate it was through his influence, at a time when Whig measures he was interested in were talked to death in the House, that "the hour rule"—no member to speak longer than an hour except by unanimous consent—was adopted in the popular body. CLAY was consistent. He urged the hour rule for the Senate, but the Conscript Fathers would have none of it.

Is cloture, using the term in the general sense, coming in the Senate, which now has ninety-six members and is an elective body? When it meets again a cloture rule will be introduced and debated, according to Speaker CLARK. While plainly in favor of limiting debate in the Senate, he is not sanguine that anything will come of the movement. "We would do well to remember," he says, "what Senators will not forget for one moment when brought squarely face to face with a general cloture rule, and that is that the regular of to-day is quite likely to be the filibuster of to-morrow."

We are inclined to think that with the object lesson of the failure of the obnoxious ship purchase bill so fresh in the public mind, a cloture rule will have short shrift in the Senate when it reassembles. The Speaker observes that "so soon as he (the average citizen) discovers, if he ever does, that beneficent and remedial legislation is blocked and defeated in the Senate by reason of a lack of cloture, he will force cloture, for in political and legislative matters the average citizen is supreme." But every now and then he sees with eyes wide open that undesirable and vicious measures go down before a filibuster in the Senate. He must also have perceived that when public opinion really demands "beneficent and remedial legislation" the Senate does not long stand in its way.

Business and Jail.

Speaking the other day of the 62,000-odd laws passed by Congress and the State Legislatures in the last five years and the 65,000 reported decisions of courts of last resort Mr. ELIHU ROOT asked:

"How can business men possibly know them all so as to conduct their business and keep out of jail?"

Well, they can keep out of business or they can go to jail. Who knows what a well meant law may bring forth under the nursing of commissions and bureaus? In a speech at Kansas City last week Senator WEEKS of Massachusetts gave an instance of a working in a particular case of the pure food law, so "excellent in theory," so capable of curious injustice under the interpretation and administration of Federal headledom, of that singular and incomprehensible entity or nonentity the official mind:

"A manufacturer of a product known as 'sweetened powdered chocolate' was ordered to suspend his sales because his product did not contain a certain amount of cocoa butter, arbitrarily declared necessary by Federal officials.

"Now this particular product was pure, it was wholesome and it contained nothing deleterious. There is no standard definition of chocolate. But there is a standard definition of cocoa, and this manufacturer was measured to the cocoa standard. After the wheels in his factory had been stopped for a considerable period he went to Washington to discover when a final ruling in his case would be made. A bureau official pointed to a high pile of papers on his desk and told the manufacturer his case would not be reached for several months. In the meantime, his output was stopped."

Here is the Federal Trade Commission, which has got to define "unfair methods" of combination. Senator WEEKS gave this uncomfortable reminder to the business men he was talking to:

"It is doubtful if any of you men in this room—and most of you are connected with corporations of one type or another—would undertake to define just what constitutes an unfair method in your trade. Yet the commission can bring you up short at any time by declaring that your methods of doing business are unfair, even though the results you obtain may not be criticised.

"I am reminded of the members of the 'wire rope pool,' who were fined from $1,000 to $5,000 each for certain acts in violation of a law which the framer of the bill, Senator HOAR, told them they could do with impunity."

GEORGE HOAR's advice on a point of law was that of a highly trained, acute and experienced man, incapable of trying to shelter a client on any technicality. RUFUS CHOATE said that only God Almighty could tell what a petit jury would do. The remark applies a good deal better to the action of the Federal and State pursuers of business.

The hope of business is less in any self-enlightenment of the official mind than in the political perception that baiting business has become unpopular or less popular.

This convention will bring to Albany some of the ablest men in the country, who are coming here with the idea of framing an ideal organic law and of sweeping aside partisan prejudices and feelings.—*A delegate to the Constitutional Convention.*

While partisan prejudices and feelings are being swept away, let some clear headed and disinterested delegate keep his eye on the projects put forward under the name of conservation.

The post office experience of the gentleman whose identity our friend the Claremont *Daily Eagle* conceals under the name of Jones reveals the Government in a delightful and profitable aspect. It monopolizes a public service, loses a valuable paper entrusted to it as a transportation agent, and then imposes a tax of 5 per cent. on the victim of its incapacity and carelessness for the privilege of reasonably prompt payment. The incident suggests to the *Daily Eagle* the terrors of telegraph and telephone management by the Government. Probably if these services were directed from Washington, the man who wanted to talk to his physician on the telephone and found that the central office was unable to make the connection would be fined a good sum for bothering the operator.

In spite of the fact that street sweepers are officially questioned as to what their wives spend for underwear, some persons cannot understand why reform administrations do not retain their popularity.

Robbers stop work thrice to kill men. —*Headline.*

It must interfere seriously with a robber's plans when he is obliged to interrupt the orderly pursuit of his occupation to commit three murders.

THE GOVERNMENT WAY.

It Makes the Citizen Pay High for Its Own Lack of Efficiency.

From the Claremont, N. H., Daily Eagle.

A man, whom we may call Jones, sold an article to a stranger in Lebanon, and sent the article by parcel post collect. That is to say, he used the C. O. D. privilege now extended to patrons of the parcel post; and his customer made his payment to the postmaster at Lebanon, who was supposed to send a money order for the amount back to Jones.

The money order failing to arrive in due time, Jones applied at the local post office for a duplicate order by which he might obtain his remittance. Two sets of blanks were furnished to him, one in the form of a bond to be indorsed by two responsible citizens so as to insure the Government against loss in case the order should be cashed twice. The blanks were filled out in a fashion to relieve the Government of anxiety, and the postmaster forwarded them to the Washington authorities.

They came back in the course of time with a red pencil mark indicating a spot where it was necessary to affix a fifty cent revenue stamp.

Fifty cents for what? For the privilege of collecting an amount of money—it was $10 in this case—which the Post Office Department had undertaken and failed to deliver. It is hardly to be wondered at that Jones said a few uncomplimentary things about the Government and declined to pay the tax. The only alternative open to the victim of this bungling and unfair arrangement is to wait a month or two until the machinery of the department rolls around in its own way to reissue the order.

TRANSFER RATES.

The High Price of Trunk Moving in New York.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have read several articles in THE SUN regarding the rates and reductions by the express companies in competition with the parcel post rates. How about the charges by the New York Transfer Company and Westcott's Express in delivering baggage in New York and Brooklyn?

Formerly the rate for baggage from New York to Brooklyn was 50 cents a piece. At present and for several years the rate has been 75 cents. Even if a trunk only weighs twenty-five pounds that is the rate. Prior to the advance in price it was possible to check a trunk from your address in Brooklyn to your hotel in Baltimore or Washington for 75 cents. Now the rate is $1.10, an increase of 46 2-3 per cent.

The Adams Express Company rate between Baltimore and Brooklyn, the distance of which is over 190 miles, is $1 a hundred pounds. Up to date nobody has heard of any of the transfer companies retiring on account of the competition by the parcel post.

I am one who has had to pay the excessive charges on numerous occasions. M. R.

BALTIMORE, Md., April 6.

German-American Contributions to Davy Jones's Locker.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Germans have up to date sunk four American steamers. They sank the Evelyn on February 21, the Carib on February 23, the W. P. Frye on March 10 and the Greenbriar on April 3. After they sank the W. P. Frye we had the captain of the German steamer which sank her as an honored guest at the launching of an American battleship. After the Germans have sunk an even dozen of American ships I propose, with the assistance of Mr. Richard Harding Davis, to ask Congress to pass a joint resolution of thanks to the German Government. Such a measure ought to have the approval of the Administration, for the more American boats the Germans sink the greater will be the necessity for the passage of the Administration's ship purchase bill. Let American boats be sunk by the Germans and buy interned German boats to take their place, is a slogan which ought to rally the now disaffected hyphenated vote to the support of the Administration. Will Mr. Davis help me, or does he think we "can't do this"? LAWRENCE GODKIN.

NEW YORK, April 6.

An Alligator Defied.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your "Nonplussed Philosopher" asks:

Why do they carry between their teeth bacteriological carfare coins and open letters and sardine cans with hairpins?

I must ask for a bill of particulars. When did your correspondent ever see a woman (of course women are the object of these criticisms) with open letters and sardine cans with hairpins between her teeth? As a member of the sex thus defamed I indignantly protest against such ridiculous assertions. When, Mr. Philosopher? We await your reply with curiosity.

ONE OF "THEM" WHO NEVER PUTS COINS BETWEEN HER TEETH.

NEW YORK, April 6.

A Naval Canticle.

Would you like to be an Admiral
And live at home at ease,
And never leave the capital
Nor sail the Seven Seas?
Then hark to what I now report
And follow my advice,
And on your collar you may sport
Sidereal device.

On all who may approach bestow
The choicest sentiment;
Let milk and honey overflow
And with sweet oil be blent;
Put "service" ever at the top
Of matters in your mind;
Not service in the sense of "shop,"
But service of mankind!

Instead of being after Jack
To mind his "q's and "p's,
Veer ever on the other tack
And teach him "a b c"s;
For gunnery and seamanship
Will Topsyilke just grow,
And dreadnoughts always self-equip,
Sing hey, my lads, yo ho!

In course of time your Uncle Sam
Will drink the dregs of joy
To think how full you came to cram
Each gallant sailor boy;
The billows all will burst in foam
And this result be seen,
Each battleship will be a home
And every sub marine!

MAURICE MORRIS.

THE LOYAL LEGION.

Fiftieth Anniversary of Its Foundation Comes Next Week.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* On April 15, 1865, the day when the nation, rejoicing in the success that crowned the effort to preserve it, was plunged into dismay by the assassination of President Lincoln, a number of officers of the Union army and navy met in Philadelphia and founded "The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States," open to all Union officers and their eldest male lineal descendants. The declared principles of the order were:

First—A firm belief and trust in Almighty God, extolling Him under Whose beneficent guidance the sovereignty and integrity of the Union have been preserved, the honor of the flag vindicated and the blessings of civil liberty secured, established and enlarged.

Second—True allegiance to the United States of America based upon paramount respect for and fidelity to the national Constitution and laws, manifested by discountenancing whatever may tend to weaken loyalty, incite to insurrection, treason or rebellion or impair in any manner the efficiency and permanency of free institutions.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the order will be celebrated under the auspices of the Commander of the State of Pennsylvania Philadelphia April 14, 15, and 16. All the twenty-one State commanderies have been invited to participate. In January last the order had 7,472 members, of whom 3,649 were officers who had served in the war.

The occasion will be both memorable and pathetic. Memorable because probably never again will be assembled so many of the officers who served in the Union army, and because it will recall as no other event can the sacrifice and patriotic devotion by which the nation was preserved. Pathetic because of the bent forms and whitened locks of the men who will be gathered there:

The eyes that only brightened when the
blaze of battle lightened,
Like the tattered flags they followed have
grown dull and faded too.

In this age of rush and hurry after material gain and wealth such a gathering should give us pause, should make us take to heart and try to realize through what fire and stress the inheritance of free constitutional government which we so richly enjoy has been preserved for us.

WILLIAM S. COGSWELL.

NEW YORK, April 6.

DISGUSTED THEATREGOERS.

Tired of the Box Office Swindle, They Have Quit the Playhouse.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* That the public is disgusted with conditions prevailing in the theatrical business and is deliberately staying away from the theatres would never occur to the men who have made the box office a joke and the last place a New Yorker would think of applying for desirable seats.

I am fond of the theatre, but I am tired of taking what is left after the speculators and the hotels get theirs, and I find that the moving pictures, helped out by an informal dance occasionally, enable me to get along very nicely, leaving the undesirable theatre seats at the box office for those who are foolish enough to buy them.

It is just possible that other New Yorkers have reached the same frame of mind in sufficient numbers to account for the present lamentations.

NEW YORK, April 6. C. E. M.

THE STAY LATE CLUB.

One Gentleman Who Rejected an Opportunity to Join.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* My lady fair asked me to make arrangements to go to a certain restaurant after theatre one evening last week, not so much on account of the food or the service, but because she likes the music there.

I called up his Majesty the Head Waiter, and he graciously consented to reserve a table. However, when we arrived near midnight, hungry and thirsty, and with all the latest tango steps on the tips of our toes, I was told that we could not pass the portals unless I signed an agreement to become a member of a club "in case of election" at a cost of $10 a membership.

"They have thought out many inventions," but I did not fall. A. S.

NEW YORK, April 6.

Mr. Bryan's Mathematics.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In a recent article, "Why I Lecture," our Secretary of State sets forth that he "spent less than ten days in the lecture field during the year 1913 and less than five working days during the year 1914, or less than one-fourth of the time allowed me by law for a vacation during the two years."

If this is the case, why is Bryan so severely criticised on this score? The theme of the critics seems to be that he has neglected his duties through mercenary motives. If he has lectured less than fifteen days in two years his conduct certainly does not seem very reprehensible. Has he really neglected his duty, or is the criticism merely because it is considered unseemly for the incumbent of the office which Bryan holds to lecture for pay during his term of service? In all fairness to him, has he not been the object of a great deal of unjustified censure since he was elected?

BARRE, Vt., April 5. G. S. D.

Highly Paid Passion for Souls.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Passion for souls at a thousand dollars a day and all expenses, and "then some," is a rare bird. I do not find it listed in my New Testament.

JAMES H. ECOB.

FLUSHING, April 6.

Attention, Mr. Postmaster-General.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is it imagination on my part or am I correct in thinking that strips of postage stamps are not perfectly perforated? Sometimes I am called upon to take strips of 100 stamps and divide them into smaller strips which will conveniently fit into an envelope of the ordinary size. Whether the fault lies with my inexperience or the imperfect perforation of the strips is the point in question, but it appears that no matter how careful I am it is impossible for me to complete the work without tearing some stamps. What leads me to believe that the fault cannot entirely be due to my handling of the strips is the fact that I have experienced the trouble during the last few months only.

BROOKLYN, April 6. FIAT LUX.

The Sequel.

Knicker—What succeeds that tired feeling?

Bocker—That fired feeling.

The Worm Turns.

Knicker—Did he apply for a divorce?

Bocker—Yes, he said it was too much to fasten her shoes up behind.

Hymn to Hope.

The night hath broken,
The dark cloud fled.
Hail hope, who riseth
The world instead.

All hues are banded
Within thy span,
Thou rainbow token,
Delight of man.

Hope, thou art stronger
Than all we see,
Thy name is Willard,
All hail to thee!

MCLANDBERGH WILSON.

THE APPOINTIVE JUDICIARY.

An Argument in Favor of Authority for an Elected Chief Justice.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Barnes's criticism of an appointive judiciary is "inextricably intertwined" with his assumption that the Governor is to appoint such judicial officers. The draft judiciary article which was published in the *Law Journal* last week and to which you made reference on your editorial page in the last column meets the difficulties which are confessedly inherent in an appointive judiciary where the Executive is made the appointing functionary, but providing for the complete independence of the judiciary, and yet preserving its immediate relationship of answerability to the people by the provision that the Chief Justice shall be elected by the people, the idea being that he shall be elected at a spring election especially held for the purpose, and that he in turn shall appoint all the other Judges, so that they will owe no debts to any other department of the Government and their independence shall be preserved by a tenure during good behavior, but their efficiency shall be assured by not only preserving the right of the Legislature to impeach but providing within the court itself, when standardized by consolidation, a body that shall have power to remove summarily, but on hearing, corrupt or unfit Judges.

In the discussion of this feature of this ideal judiciary article the objection has been made that the people could not trust the Chief Justice of the State to make proper appointments, that he would be under the temptation to use this great power unworthily and that therefore it ought to be exercised by the Governor, who, God save the mark! is concededly to be expected to be free from all political or partisan motives, and who never, God save another mark! would use this power of patronage to bolster up his own political fortunes and hopes.

Nevertheless some important and influential men, while desiring an appointive judiciary, seem to think it safer that it should have its source in the Executive, and yet the unreasonableness of this distinction has appealed to others, who have urged that the Court of Appeals or the court of last resort of the State, whether it be seven or nine or twenty-one in number (see overture of Jamestown Bar Association), should have this power of appointing the inferior Judges.

So long as the judiciary is elected at its source by the people at a separate election focusing the attention of the people upon the importance of the electoral act, it is immaterial whether the appointing of the judiciary be by that court or by a single Chief Justice. The term of the suggested Chief Justice was fixed at four years in the plan in order that he might be called to an account by the people for the exercise of his appointive power. It would be expected that he should automatically be presented for reelection without prejudice to other candidates, but his independence ought to be preserved by permitting him to become automatically a Judge of the court if he preferred not to stand for reelection, in order that he might in a proper case acquire such a length of service as would entitle him to retire on a pension.

The more this ideal judiciary article is studied the more completely will its general harmony and consistency appear, and I welcome this ill considered observation of Mr. Barnes as the occasion for bringing out a little more definitely one of the fundamental features.

HENRY W. JESSUP.

NEW YORK, April 6.

ART FOR THE ELEVATED.

A Petition to the Managers of the Manhattan Railway.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why not admit a little more of the picturesque into our city life, a little more of the rus in urbe than can be found only in our city parks?

I notice the Ninth avenue elevated station at Forty-second street now sports a coat of beautiful grass green, with a roof painted a fresh brown. These colors blend in poetic harmony and are most refreshing to the traveller's eye. Whether the present dress of the station in question will be permanent or is temporary only I cannot say, since it is the only station I have so far seen that is divested of the usual tiresome "regulation" colors of sooty black and gray.

The effect of a touch of green in a huge gray city is charming and really acts as a tonic on tired nerves. I hope the Interborough-Metropolitan Company will not only allow the Forty-second street Ninth avenue oasis to continue its verdant existence, but also will recognize the preeminent right of other elevated stations to a like joy and peace so pleasing to the wayfarer. T. E. W.

GLEN RIDGE, N. J., April 6.

Dogless Constantinople.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In his story about the Turk and his ways in THE SUN of April 4 J. J. Bosdan writes as if the dogs were still a feature of the street life of Constantinople. Three years ago I wandered for several days about the streets of Pera, Galata and Stamboul, and in that time saw two dogs, one up in Pera and the other over at Seraglio Point.

After the deposition of Abdul Hamid by the Young Turks the dogs were also ordered to be banished, in an effort to make the ancient city conform somewhat to modern ideas, and they were transported to an island in the Sea of Marmora, where they perished through neglect and starvation.

Some of the Turks were opposed to the wiping out of one of the picturesque features of Constantinople, and a few dogs were secreted when the clearing out took place, to be left not only homeless as they were before, but disconsolate over the loss of their fellows.

NEW YORK, April 6. G. F. K.

Kansas Exults.

I yell.
I howl horrendously, my jubilant throat
is abraded.
Over the prairies once populated by
wolves, by Populists, by vast
herds of insatiable and sautillant
hoppers,
I howl. I rush in my 65-power Hellcart.
Exulting in Willard, the glory of Kansas.
O books, O terrible, triumphant books,
O the élan, the intolerable reach of
them!
Jess!
To Boston, to Indiana, I throw contemptuously the books, pale pieces
of literature, weak, sedentary
things.
The Literary Belt! It makes me snigger, I cachinnate, I guffaw!
We are the Belt! We have the Belt.

Tango with august legs, O Kansas, skip!
You are the champion, the knocker out.
Judas tree of the Sunflowers, poil of unquenchable fire,
Victor Victus Murdock, Torch of Wichita,
Redden the happy skies!
Lyrics churn in my brain box; come
forth plump into being, O lyric,
O cheese of my heart!

"You jabbed him in the pit, Jess, you
bashed him in the jaw, and every
time you hit, Jess, you thought
of good old Kaw!
John Brown of Ossawatomie, he dearly
loved the black; Jess of Pottawatomie
Smashed Senegambian Jack.
Rattle on the clapper, pound upon the
drum, call out Arthur Capper and
make things hum!"
Kansas has the punch!

W—M ALL—N WH—TE.

HOCH DER HYPHEN!

Reflections on the Self-Restraint of German-American Writers for the Press.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Just one word, please: Is not Germany always right?

In your paper last Sunday a neutral-pro-German-American told you that the Germans were "the noblest people in the war." How utterly weak and inadequate are those words. Why not speak out? Why is it that our pro-German letter writers are so timid, so backward and so full of native modesty that they will begum their statements with such feeble utterances? They fear to be dogmatic. This is not-sense. It convinces nobody.

To be neutral you must know that Germany can do no wrong in this war. In this war if a German soldier or officer does a thing it is right because a German did it. Is it not so?

How many times have the German leaders and Government officials publicly admitted the superiority of Germany over all other nations! Do they not concede that it is the most refined, cultured, humane, honorable, just and generally righteous Government known to profane history at any time? Has not the Kaiser an alliance with the Almighty? Does he not admit it?

Now from this you must understand why the German Government is so superior, why it sees that its duty is to dominate the world and the universe, if possible—otherwise it is no use. To deny this, it is not-sense. If you still do not understand, it is useless.

You know now why Germany conducts the war on such a high plane of humanitarianism. If unusually harsh and cruel acts are to be performed she leaves it for her inferiors, meaning the Allies. She will not stoop to do inhuman and barbarous acts, no matter how much it will help her—unless she wills it.

Now, will the neutrals please listen sharply one moment? A superior nation may do many things not permitted an inferior nation. Whatever Germany wills, inferior people must abide by it. For instance, Germany took Kiao-chow from the Chinese because she wanted to get it out of the clutches of an inferior race which had outrageously clung to it for perhaps 5,000 years and which was too weak to prevent the transfer.

For England or France to have invaded Belgium would have been unjust and dishonorable. For them to have crushed and ruined the people would have been the crime of the century, but for Germany to do so was different. Always must the inferior race go down. If Germany has killed, maimed and impoverished the Belgians, it is for their own good. Germany is a Christian nation. She has treated Belgium exactly as Christ would have done. That disposes of that.

Next, Germany is so highly civilized, so eager to protect women, children and the old and infirm—a duty Heaven has placed upon the strong—that she was the first to introduce the dropping of infernal machines on defenceless women and children as a peace promoting measure.

There was something noble and brave about this; something chivalrous and glorious. It lifted war out of the barbarous, inhuman depths of the past. To crawl through the dark and fog with big ships and throw bursting bombs into the homes of sleeping women and children was a Godlike act. If the cries and groans of these terror stricken and maimed innocents reached Him, it was understood Up There that Germany and the Kaiser had willed it.

Savages have heretofore massacred the families of their captives or of their enemies while the men were away at war, but that was utterly inexcusable. They scalped their foes. Germany does not. Inferior races cannot be permitted to do such things, for they go to extremes. With Germany it is not so. See what a mercy and a blessing the destruction of unarmed and defenceless non-combatants by Germany has been to mankind. See how it has stricken the enemy with terror, and paisled the hands of his men in the trenches. Observe, please, the white flags of surrender all along the battle front. What a stroke of diplomacy for the Kaiser to have accepted the Almighty's help in this matter.

Did you ever sneak up in the dark and stab an unarmed man in the back in order to frighten your enemies into a peaceful frame of mind? This is a brand new idea in warfare, and a glorious one, for which we can thank Germany again. The submarine would be a mere assassin-in-the-dark in the hands of an inferior nation, but with Germany it is made an instrument of the Almighty to punish the innocent and defenceless, that her enemies may be frightened away from their guns.

What a soul stirring spectacle for a soldier and a King to see these helpless ocean travellers struggling and finally sinking in the sea. What joy it must give the Hosts on High to watch these unoffending humans go to their doom. Superior culture and Christian training will tell. It is to the everlasting glory of Germany that she was the first to conceive of this honorable and humane method of confounding her enemies. Besides, it is much safer for the attacking party. Submarines are sometimes injured if they attack warships.

It is not an insult to America to kill her citizens on the high seas. It was not an insult to sink an American ship rather than to wait a few hours to throw over the cargo. It was not an impertinence for that German captain to hurry into the shelter of one of our ports while he prepared to go out and do it again—the enemy permitting. These were intended as the Kaiser's compliments. It is an honor to have a ship sunk and a few people killed by a superior and highly civilized nation. By this means we get a place in the history of the war.

To accept the sanctuary of our port at San Juan and then attempt to violate the law and our hospitality by making a dash for the sea, which a German war supply ship recently did, is typically German, but it is not showing a spirit of contempt for us. It was perfectly right, for Germany willed it through her captain, who, being a German, could do no wrong. Hence the result.

For the high and humane plane upon which Germany is carrying on its war, for the many compliments which she and the Allies have paid us by flouting our sea rights, we should be duly thankful. If the Government has not already done so, Congress should pass a vote of thanks for these kind attentions.

Hoch der Bindestrich, I salute you!

AMMI WRIGHT.

NEW YORK, April 6.

GOVERNMENT HUNTS FOR THEATRE TRUST

Representatives of Six Firms Heard—Inquiry Under Way Here a Week.

RESTRAINT IS DENIED

The existence of an alleged theatrical trust in violation of the Sherman law is the subject of an investigation that has been quietly under way here for more than a week. The complaint was made to the Department of Justice in Washington and was turned over to United States Attorney Marshall. Mr. Marshall assigned Assistant United States Attorney Thompson to conduct the inquiry.

The Government agents have worked so quietly that it was not until yesterday, when some one saw Charles Tillingham coming from Attorney Thompson's office in the Federal Building, that the facts became known. Then it was admitted that the inquiry was in progress on complaint of a theatrical manager, not named, but none of the Federal attorneys would say who had been questioned, nor would they tell what they had learned.

It was hinted that the investigation would continue for a week, and it will probably not be decided until then whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant the United States attorney in bringing the theatrical men before the Federal Grand Jury.

From sources outside the Federal Building it was learned that among those questioned were representatives of Selwyn & Co., Cohan & Harris, A. H. Woods, William A. Brady, Klaw & Erlanger and the Shuberts. It was said yesterday that these men told the attorneys that there is no such thing in the theatrical business as a trust in restraint of trade and that even the so-called independent producers maintained that competition was open and free.

The complaint framed by the unnamed manager is said to hinge upon the alleged existence of a Northwestern and Southern circuit of theatres. The complaint is understood to refer only to the "legitimate" stage and the vaudeville business is not being investigated.

Ill feeling and bitter rivalry have existed for many years between the small producers and the so-called combination. Much of the difficulty arose in the cities and towns outside of New York in the matter of booking plays. Small producers often complained that the theatres in these towns were controlled by large New York concerns and that the independent was either prohibited from showing in the town or was forced to do so at a loss.

There is a possibility of either a civil or criminal suit, or both, as a result of the investigation.

FILM CONCERNS IN BIG DISTRIBUTION UNION

Vitagraph - Lubin - Selig - Essanay, Inc., Break With General Film Co.

Four of the largest moving picture companies of the country formed yesterday a corporation for the purpose of distributing direct to the exhibitors at least one feature film of four or more reels a week. They will open branch offices in six of the large cities of the United States immediately and will put out a distribution programme on a large scale.

The corporation is composed of the Vitagraph Company of America, the Lubin Manufacturing Company, the Selig Polyscope Company and the Essanay Manufacturing Company, with a capital of $500,000. It is to be called Vitagraph-Lubin-Selig-Essanay, Inc., with headquarters in New York.

This action is considered a break with the General Film Company, though smaller agency features by these companies have heretofore been distributed. Smaller releases of shorter films, however, will still be made through the General Film Company, but it is deemed more advisable to act independently in matters pertaining to feature films.

To a certain extent this new company will also be in opposition to the Famous Players Company. It will mean that while the companies involved in the deal will be in competition with each other they will cooperate so as to establish mutual offices and to perfect a new direct distribution plan.

Offices will be opened in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, Kansas City and San Francisco. The officers of the new half million dollar corporation are: President, Albert E. Smith; treasurer, William Selig; secretary, Sigmund Lubin; vice-president, George K. Spoor and general manager, Walter W. Irwin.

Mr. Irwin said last night that ten big features would shortly be announced for release.

G. A. R. TABLET UNVEILED

Celebration of Organization's 50th Anniversary Is Held.

DECATUR, Ill., April 6.—The 50th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic was observed here to-day by the unveiling of a bronze tablet commemorating the event.

Bishop Samuel Fallows of Illinois, department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and Miss Inez J. Render, department president of the Woman's Relief Corps of Illinois, presided at the ceremonies.

Within 100 feet of the tablet is the site of the famous "Wigwam" where Abraham Lincoln was first indorsed for President of the United States. A tablet to place will also soon be marked.

135 MORE SHIPS FLY U. S. FLAG

Vessels Valued at $31,107,270 Registered Under New Law.

WASHINGTON, April 6.—The bureau of navigation states that up to the end of March 135 vessels of 155,[illegible] tons, valued at $31,107,270, were entered under the United States registry act of August 18, 1914. Of these vessels were owned before the outbreak of the European war.

In the newly registered merchant marine are 103 steamships and [illegible] sailing vessels.

THE SEAGOERS.

Sailing to-day by the S[illegible] American liner Frederik VIII for Christ