The Sun.

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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.

The President of the United States will find in New York to-day, as he would find everywhere else in the country, that he is also the President of a united people. In a difficult and an anxious time party politics have "ceased at the water's edge." Not Democrats, not Republicans, not of any other name or shade of partisanship, just Americans, the American people hold up the hands of their President. Save from a squad of political energumens and a cabal of inveterate aliens, there is no dissent and no division. With resolute sober patriotism, with a profound love of peace, but ready for all just means of defending their rights upon the seas, New York and the United States welcome and honor President WILSON. There is but one party, the party of the Union of all America for the American cause.

Help New York Be Economical, Governor Whitman.

Governor WHITMAN should approve the Mills bill, designed to enable the city to build the new court house economically and at the same time to prevent the whole cost of that structure from becoming immediately a charge against the debt limit. The measure was drawn in collaboration by the Court House Board, the Comptroller and the Corporation Counsel, and has been accepted for the city by Mayor MITCHEL. It would grant to the city a freedom of action in letting the contracts and prosecuting the erection of the structure impossible under the charter, and particularly desirable in the present difficult condition of the treasury.

There is no substantial argument based on public interest against the bill. Its approval would, in the opinion of those best qualified to judge, expedite construction, result in economy to the taxpayers and permit the adjustment of the bonds to be issued to pay for the edifice in such a manner as to encroach on the debt limit gradually, instead of for the whole sum at once. These considerations should, and we think will, lead the Governor to approve the bill, and thus aid New York in the financing of an expensive but essential public work.

Dr. Dernburg's Failure.

Dr. DERNBURG's decision to abandon his propaganda in this country was foreshadowed by the silence which enveloped him immediately after the publication of accounts of the disfavor with which his activities were regarded by the Administration in Washington. While dissatisfaction with his course existed previous to the destruction of the Lusitania, it was not officially hinted at in public until that disaster had produced a situation of grave import. The necessity of maintaining popular calm then became highly serious and Dr. DERNBURG's labors were at once recognized as a source of irritation.

It is not too much to say that Dr. DERNBURG's later exertions have not been marked by the same skill and tact that characterized his earlier efforts. This is not unnatural. As his stay lengthened the difficulties of his mission increased. His failure to achieve his purpose unquestionably reacted upon his methods, and even his admirable intellectual equipment was incapable of supporting the hard and trying pose to which his objects obligated him. Moreover, while Dr. DERNBURG displayed an understanding of American institutions and the American mind superior to that attained by many of his fellow countrymen, he was not entirely free from those misconceptions which, since this war began, have so frequently thwarted German endeavors.

The position in which Dr. DERNBURG was placed was of exceeding delicacy. The design he struggled to advance was, we believe, hopeless from the start. It is not improbable that he was as successful as any other man among all of Germany's servants could have been; perhaps he was more successful than any other could have been. No person can explain away Belgium; no person can explain away the non-combatant dead whose bodies are now being brought back to their country. Dr. DERNBURG sought to propitiate. It is conceivable that a man more experienced in American manners, a man like KUNO FRANCKE, for example, might have avoided some of the pitfalls into which Dr. DERNBURG stumbled; that a higher respect for the mental capacity of Americans might have escaped some of the more glaring errors into which Dr. DERNBERG has betrayed himself; but even a superman would have found Dr. DERNBURG's task impossible of successful completion.

Railroad Rates and Ownership.

One way of describing the railroad problem which the country has on its hands is to say that the railways have too many creditors and too few owners. They owe too much money in proportion to their equities.

In recent months the dim beginnings of a public policy which suggests a prospect of eventual change for the better in this regard have been discernible, and everybody understands that the railway problem is in essence a question of remunerative rates for railroad service. The new public policy indicated looks toward a more liberal Government regulation which will allow the railroads to charge money making rates for the service they render, but the new policy is still in a formative stage.

H. PARKER WILLIS, secretary of the Federal Reserve Board, seems to have made an earnest effort to contribute toward the solution of the railway problem in an article which appears in the *Railway Age Gazette*. Yet it is doubtful if he has lent much real assistance. Apparently he looks at the problem wrong end to.

According to Mr. WILLIS the new Federal banking system is going to cause such changes in the general disposition of banking funds that the railroads will be compelled to finance themselves otherwise than through the sale of short term notes to bankers, a rather desperate expedient to which they have increasingly resorted in recent years. In consequence of the transformation of banking practice Mr. WILLIS thinks that the railroads will have to sell securities which the public will take. Then when railroad securities enjoy more popular distribution the people will see to it that the railroads are better treated by the Government regulators in respect of rates:

"Too much railroad capital has been derived from the banks and financial institutions. It is necessary to get the shares and obligations of the railroads into the hands of the public and to make the people really and in fact the proprietors of the transportation lines. When in this sense the railroads have been popularized benefit will result. The people who are holders of the securities will recognize the claims of those who look to the railroads for earnings as well as to those who look to them for accommodation. When this result has been attained the so-called rate problem will have disappeared."

Others have had a vision of a more widespread public interest in the fortunes of the railroads through a widely diffused ownership of railway securities. Most of these visionaries do exactly what Mr. WILLIS has done. They put the cart before the horse. They say in substance that if more railroad shares and obligations were in the hands of the public and less in the hands of bankers the railroads would be assured of more liberal rates. The facts are that if regulation had been less oppressive there would now be a better diffusion of railroad securities. Railroad stocks, notes and bonds cannot be put into the hands of the public in order to solve the rate problem. The rate problem must be solved to bring about more general public ownership of railroad shares and obligations.

For years past the railroads have had to finance themselves by increasing recourse to the banking community for accommodation on short term notes because they could not sell other securities, especially stocks, to the public to anything like a needful or desirable extent. The best kind of financing which the railroads could do for their own interest and for the public interest would be through the sale of shares, but political oppression of the common carriers has been so severe that the sale of stocks has been almost precluded except by processes of indirection.

Impairment of the investment attractions of the railroads even went so far as to make the disposition of long time bonds extremely difficult. There was nothing left for the railroads to do but to go to the money lenders.

If a new and sane policy of railroad regulation is developed a greater distribution of railroad securities will inevitably result. This distribution will help to keep the rate problem solved, but rates must be dealt with fairly in the first place.

The War in Africa.

The capture of Windhoek, the capital of German Southwestern Africa, by the Union forces under General LOUIS BOTHA in the magnitude of other happenings is somewhat obscured and the hard fighting that the conquest represented and the importance of the victory to the British interests in Africa are likely to be overlooked.

The success of BOTHA's campaign signifies the conquest of the colony and the termination of German control in this part of the continent. That this colony was not so attractive as some others of South Africa was due in a measure to its administration. More than $10,000,000 was annually appropriated by the German Parliament, but instead of being used in the development of the harbors, resources and in the improvement of the towns it was employed in military defence. The roads were more adapted to strategic purposes than to the needs of the settlers, who were to a great extent retired Prussian soldiers, and the railway was a loop that might supply the interior forts and connect the two extreme points of the coasts. A most elaborate system of blockhouses was built along the eastern border, joined by underground wires and wireless telegraphy and watched over by airmen. Beyond this line was a great belt of desert land, separating it from the British colony.

It was across this arid sand tract that the Union troops forced their way. The Germans fought not in the solid formation of their Fatherland but in the open lines which they too had learned from the Boers, and retreating destroyed the wells to retard the advance of the enemy. That the Union forces finally gained the line of blockhouses, the strategic railway and the capital city was no easily won victory.

The conquest was, as General BOTHA said, one of the "utmost importance to the empire and the Union of South Africa." It removes a menace to the British possessions, and in case of the Allies' success will give the Union much desired ports on the Atlantic.

The Theatre's High Sign.

The succeeding seasons produce their varying phenomena in the theatre, and this year one of the striking changes must make its impression even on those who are not often seated inside a playhouse. It is the method of advertising their wares in which the showmen have this season departed from the custom of previous years. They no longer endeavor to bring the public into the theatres by offering as an attraction a sample of their goods, whether it be the graphic reproduction of a scene or the counterfeit presentment of one of the actors. There is no effort to show any actual episode of the play.

The latest development of the poster on the other hand deviates further from reality than it ever did. Who has ever seen one of the few surviving copies of that old lithograph called "The Billposter's Dream" in which the portraits of the celebrities of two decades ago, roughly reproduced by some lithographic method, are jumbled together on a wall? It was just that style of pictorial advertisement which the American managers for years used. Sometimes these departed celebrities were shown in character, but more frequently as in life. Of course in the case of such famous actors as JOHN E. OWENS, who was always shown as *Solon Shingle*; JOSEPH JEFFERSON, who was *Rip*; E. L. DAVENPORT, who was *Sir Giles Overreach*, and WILLIAM J. FLORENCE, who could only have been the *Hon. Bardwell Slote*, there was no effort to separate the person from the rôle with which he was chiefly identified in the public mind.

So for years the illustrative advertisements of the managers continued literal and photographic. With the sudden artistic evolution of the poster brought about by CHÉRET, STEINLEIN, TOULOUSE-LAUTREC and MUSCHA and the Frenchmen who first attained eminence in this field, portraiture was not altogether neglected. It was in its clever adaptation of the subject to the extravagance of the new school that the artists were most successful. It was a secondary stage of development which made the treatment altogether symbolical. The excellent work done by the German poster designers to-day has withdrawn in its general tendency far from the photographic. It is all suggestion and symbolism.

Our own poster art has travelled far from the subject matter it is supposed to proclaim. Any fantastic drawing which possesses the elements of daring and humor is acceptable now. The same picture, so far as its intent is concerned, might advertise a tragedy or a farce. It happens, however, that there are few tragedies and none of them is advertised; so the merely clever and amusing picture happens to illustrate most frequently some play of comic intent.

The important element in the poster art of the day seems therefore to be in the first place a picture which by its line and color as well as its grotesque humor makes it different from all other literal announcements of fact, and which in the second place is sufficiently striking to be generally observed. Of the least importance now is the fact that it should represent any scene or person in the play advertised, or for that matter bear any relation to it beyond sufficient emphasis on its title and the theatre at which it is to be seen. Thus are the poster artists of the day bound by fewer limitations than ever.

Westchester's Appetite.

Justice ARTHUR S. TOMPKINS of the Supreme Court has patiently and intelligently exposed the bill providing for the creation of two new justiceships in his district ever since it first saw the light. He has set against it the facts of the judicial establishment in the district, an establishment never inadequate, and by the workmen's compensation law relieved of a great number of cases formerly considered in it. He has cited the records of the courts, in which it is shown that the Judges now in office are not fully employed; that the number of cases undisposed of is being rapidly reduced; and he has introduced himself as a witness to the fact that the Justices are not overworked.

The arguments of Justice TOMPKINS are sound and convincing so far as they go. But they miss the heart of the matter. The new Justices are wanted not because of the congested condition of the courts—a condition "due to the laxity with which the calendar rules have been enforced and the unpreparedness of the lawyers"—but because the Westchester political appetite demands new jobs to appease it. That appetite is one of the most wonderful now on exhibition. It has never been surpassed for intensity, continuity and cubic capacity. It makes ordinary political greed seem modest, and it is not to be satisfied by anything except new jobs.

Justice TOMPKINS is an organization Republican. He ought to know better than to think that public needs have anything to do with the desire for a multiplication of offices in Westchester county.

The "slogan" of New York cities is "Efficiency First." In some of them it has seemed to be "Deficiency First."

We wonder how many of the young gentlemen who heard the "Iphigenia in Tauris" at New Haven Saturday and of those other young gentlemen who will hear it at Cambridge Wednesday can pronounce "PYLADES" correctly without a classical dictionary.

"Who the deuce was THOMAS DEKKER?" is the query one Brooklynite put to another on a street car yesterday.—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

With all respect to our transpontine contemporary we must decline to be persuaded that in a region where Elizabethan literature is a familiar theme of street car conversations the name of THOMAS DEKKER can be unknown. The ignorant one can't have been a "Brooklynite." He was some frivolous Manhattanite.

The insurrection habit has seized upon Portugal again. The temptation to do a little killing must have been irresistible when so much of the rest of the world is practising the art on a grand scale.

SUNDAY needed in England.—*Headline.*

Hasn't she trouble enough already?

THE OLD VIRGINIANS.

Eulogy of the Traits of an Interesting Part of the American Population.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The recent death of an old Virginia lady at the age of 90 years and an acquaintance of the undersigned suggests some interesting reflections with reference to a golden age the like of which has not since been seen in America.

Reference is had to the old families of Virginia in the earlier part of the life of the old lady mentioned above. They formed what may be termed a natural aristocracy. Their superior traits stamped them as aristocrats in the best sense. They were not better than some other classes of people simply because of wealth and the social privileges which wealth confers. They were anything but snobs. They detested snobbery. Those old Virginians were a just, honorable and chivalrous race, perhaps unique in the history of America. From them sprang such of nature's noblemen as George Wythe, John Marshall, Bishop Meade and Robert E. Lee.

The manhood of that race was distinguished for its personal integrity, its fine intelligence, its reverence for womanhood, its liberality both of opinion and of purse, its personal courage, while its beauteous womanhood, beauteous in every sense, reflected virtue of the purest tint; and the singular charm of those Virginia ladies graced many a noble mansion.

Those old Virginians were just and kind to their slaves. And they loved a country life for its own sake. They loved the horse as old Homer did. The cultivation of their estates was a life's pride. Their homes were characterized by the most generous hospitality. And what was mean or low was generally far from them.

They were not a perfect people; none such ever walked this earth. But a passage in the sixth book of the Iliad, words which passed between two Homeric characters intent upon upholding the traditions of their families, is justly applicable to those old Virginians, who would do nothing to "shame the lineage of our fathers, who were of noblest blood in Ephyre."

RICHARD BROOKE.
SEATTLE, Wash., May 11.

Long Live Peace and Wilson!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* What a comfort it is that Woodrow Wilson is President! At a moment of national revulsion, with a powerful press whipping up a passion for war, and an impotent war too, it is more than a comfort, perhaps a providence, that a sober intellect, a clear head unmoved by the intemperance of clamor, governs our destinies.

We need only to point to the cases of the Virginius and the Caroline for precedents, not possibly of final determination, but of processes for dealing with the Lusitania case. They far more grievously offended the dignity of the United States; one was cold blooded murder. Germany's intent was not to destroy American lives, but to prevent any supplies from reaching her enemy.

We could do little injury to Germany if we declared war. We have not insisted upon our rights of commerce (indeed, the right of commerce is debatable, according to publicists). We have permitted Great Britain to arrest our trade with countries contiguous to the North Sea. England has monopolized it. Germany's late offence had American blood in it, and there's the rub. Let America keep her skirts clean on all sides.

Suppose we declared war; how would it end? Our army—what else may it be called?—being mobilized, and our fleet assembled in the Atlantic, there would be nothing else to do. No United States army should go to Europe. It is doubtful if an American fleet would be able to accomplish what has been impossible in the instance of the British and French armadas. But the blood lust would have been teased, and if Japan did not take the opportunity to strike us in the rear it very probably would end by our stealing some more, if not all, of Mexico.

Long live Wilson! Long reign peace! Let Europe fight Europe's war. God is in the skies. E. L. C.
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 15.

Stopford Brooke on Death.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Rev. Stopford A. Brooke of London is a famous literary man and Unitarian preacher. Sitting with him one day in his study he said to me: "I expect the day of my death to be the most romantic day of my life."

M. J. SAVAGE.
CLEVELAND, Ohio, May 14.

Listen to Cato.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Est audiendus Cato:

Let not a torrent of impetuous zeal
Transport some thus beyond the bounds of reason:
True fortitude is seen in great exploits
That justice warrants and that wisdom guides,
All else is towering phrensy and distraction.
Let us appear nor rash nor diffident:
Immoderate valor swells into a fault,
And fear, admitted into public councils,
Betrays like treason. Let us shun 'em both.

CHESTER, May 16. J. A. M.

"VILIFYING" THE COLONEL.

The Voting Multitude Said to Be Pleased by His Recent Ebullition.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* From the most prominent and from the most obscure places came the wonderful vote polled last Presidential election for Theodore Roosevelt. Under the existing conditions it was a tribute seldom extended to any man; it was a personal triumph, an expression, this vote, of confidence in the man. It placed him above the sneering rant of that ever present army left in the wake of a truly famous man.

And even from an obscure place comes this protest against your editorial vilifying this great statesman of ours for an expression of the method of procedure he believes proper.

With war clouds on the horizon the Christian gentleman at Washington, the supreme representative of all the people, must look to this same people for some expression of their will in this matter that so vitally concerns them, for if war be declared it is they who must bear the burden.

Such a rhetorical expression of confidence as came from ex-President Taft, while praiseworthy, to me seemed to lack that element of solution to be expected from a man in his position. It takes no courage to praise.

Theodore Roosevelt, realizing that that element of the people who believed in him demanded an expression of his solution—and therefore their solution—of America's problem, answered, and answered well, this pressing question.

It was the opinion of a man well able to handle the matter—not the rant of a publicity loving politician as you would have us believe. He braved the storm that he surely knew must follow—he gave the world the best that was in him without fear.

In the prominent and in the obscure places the aforementioned voting multitude is well pleased.

HAROLD M. VAN LIEW.
NEW YORK, May 15.

A NATURALIZED WAITER.

His Singular View of the Allegiance to Which He Has Sworn.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There is a prominent hotel in the neighborhood of Herald Square whose waiters are chiefly Teutons. I had occasion to dine there recently with some friends, one of whom was recently returned from England. Her pro-German sympathies were well known, although she is an American girl.

During the progress of the dinner she spoke to the German waiter who served us.

"Should the German and American nations become involved in war," she inquired, "where would the naturalized Germans stand?"

Without a moment's hesitation he replied:

"With the Fatherland."

It developed that he was a naturalized citizen of the United States, and when pressed for further information confessed that among his own associates the fact that they had sworn allegiance to the United States against all countries would in no way bind them if the enemy should be Germany.

It was impossible for him to realize his duty to his oath. He simply knew that he was a German now, then and forever, and would feel it his duty to take up arms in Germany's cause, whoever her enemy might be.

This, I am told, is not an isolated case. DIXIE HINE.
NEW YORK, May 16.

"DOMESTIC CONCORD."

Do Divorce Statistics Prove It Is "Out of Politics"?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Margaret Norrie's assertions about "domestic concord" in "Finland and all other suffrage commonwealths" do not seem to be borne out by the latest divorce statistics of Colorado and other suffrage States, nor by the great increase in divorce attributed by Dr. Shaw herself to "woman's growing independence" the past year in New York and elsewhere.

If domestic concord is undisturbed, however, in suffrage States, it but lends color to the generally accepted belief that most enfranchised women, taking little real interest in politics, only vote as their husbands do.

If this is not a "single woman's movement" it certainly comes pretty close to a "dominant childless woman's movement." This cry of these spoiled women, who already have things too much their own way, that their sisters "are governed without their consent," the majority making no demand whatever for suffrage, nor even using it where it has been accorded them, is the reduction to absurdity of female sophistry.

No one contends nor does the Constitution of any State specify that "the power to enforce decision by physical means is the only qualification for a share in the government." The cornerstone, however, of all successful government is a compound of mental and physical force, neither of which is a female quality.

The majority of men are apt to become liable to army service at some period at least of their career, whereas women in no case are, even in suffrage commonwealths.

The enforcement of the laws and the perpetuity of all government depend largely on physical force, of which fact every soldier, sailor, policeman and constable is living evidence. That the army in time of peace is representative of but a small fraction of the country's able bodied men is entirely beside the point. To retort that "the theory of physical force has long been abandoned" is the characteristically feminine way of waving scornfully aside a distasteful subject.

Until woman completely renounces her claim on man's chivalry and protective instinct, and all special laws in her favor shall have been abolished, and she is willing to stand on the same legal plane with him, this insensate chatter on her part about "equality" and "equal rights" should cease. F. C. LOCKE.
MONTICELLO, May 15.

No "Slur" Was Intended.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your leader of to-day entitled "Mr. Wilson" you say: "Nothing of Henry Clay's or James G. Blaine's invaluable if not lofty art of profiting politically by personal contacts and stirring a passionate devotion."

Art is: "Practice as guided by correct principles in the use of means for the attainment of desired ends." If Henry Clay's and James G. Blaine's power to inspire a passionate devotion on the part of their followers arose from the "practice of correct principles" it was from a knowledge of those principles so innate, and a practice so unconscious, that heart would probably be a more correct term than art for the generating of this great power which they possessed in common.

In the thrill that comes to us all at the thought that our beloved country may have found a leader worthy of the great crisis possibly stretching before her, as she did in the crisis of her four years of civil war, must those who in their writings emphasize the reasons for this hope slur our great men of the past?

MARGARET BLAINE DAMROSCH.
NEW YORK, May 15.

Where Ish Dot Barty Now?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will ex-Congressman Bartholdt please report progress on that German political party which was about to swing the United States by the tail? W. C. T.
BROOKLINE, Mass., May 15.

NATIONAL DEFENCE.

Old Systems Obsolete—The Yankee-Canadian Method Extolled.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Like most of the readers of THE SUN, I believe that the defence of our nation is of paramount importance at present. We all wish to keep our homes and families secure, our industries in prosperity, our shipping fearless of attack and our national ideals unscathed.

The method of this defence must obviously be determined upon the basis of efficiency. Several methods are urged upon us by various organizations, the chief of these being fortresses, armies and navies. Fortunately also we have been able to survey these means of defence for the past nine months in active operation. Has their efficiency been proved? Belgium has defended its homes with fortresses second to none in Europe, and the homes of Belgium have been wiped off the face of the earth. Germany has defended its families with the most formidable army in the world, and the women of East Prussia have become the prey of Russian Cossacks. Great Britain has defended its shipping with the mightiest navy of modern times, and the tragedy of British shipping is too recent and too terrible to name.

There was once a time when war and war preparations were an efficient means of defence, when "preponderant naval strength and adequate military strength" had power to make life and rights "scrupulously respected." That time disappeared with the invention of the airship, the long range gun and the submarine torpedo. In the twentieth century war can avenge, can punish, can destroy, but can no longer defend. The sentimental among us may indeed sigh for the days of chivalry and noble violence, but those days have gone; modern invention has annihilated defence by annihilating distance, and has given over supremacy in war no longer to the bravest but to the most unscrupulous.

The question is not one of sentiment, however, but of common sense. The manifest inefficiency of war, of war preparations, of fortresses, armies and navies, as a method of defending the valuable things of a nation, has been patent to us all during the past few months.

Defences of proved efficiency on the other hand have existed for one hundred years between ourselves and Great Britain, namely, an unfortified Canadian frontier, a non-existent navy on the great lakes, a comprehensive system of arbitration and a spirit of mutual understanding. These defences are unspectacular, unsentimental and unromantic, supporting few brass bands and providing little material for the school reader; yet in the words of common sense they "deliver the goods."

Shall we continue the Yankee method of national defence or adopt the German? J. W. HUGHAN.
BROOKLYN, May 15.

The Abolition of Explosives Proposed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* War which as carried on previous to the invention of gunpowder gave full scope to the manly virtue of courage and to superior physical prowess, training and skill in the use of arms, as well as to individual initiative, has become in its latest development a matter of wholesale slaughter by frightful explosives at long range and suffocation by poisonous gases. There is left very little room for the exercise of the chivalric qualities in which brave and knightly men took pride and which contributed not only to the development of great captains but to the formation of lofty and generous character.

Can it not be said that just as it was found that it was unsafe to trust any one with unlimited power, and that it was necessary in founding constitutional government to put checks upon the people themselves for their own protection, so the time has come when in the interest of humanity if wars are to continue, and there is no immediate prospect of their cessation, there must by general consent be limitations put upon the use of explosives?

Why not abolish explosives altogether, and go back to the old fashioned manful hand to hand contests where every soldier had an equal chance, and where generally the bravest, strongest and fittest survived and went back to perpetuate the race? Now the best are culled out from every country and rushed to the shambles, while the weak, the incompetent and degenerate are left to become the fathers of future generations.

In war without powder there was opportunity in the absence of dense obscuring clouds of smoke and the deafening roar of guns for more personal leadership and generalship in handling troops than is possible to-day, and there was much less destruction of property. Instead of the standup manly fighting in the battles of Alexander, Hannibal and Cæsar, war has come to be largely a matter of chemistry and high explosives, and causes shocking mutilations unknown before gunpowder.

If war is to continue is it not worth while to consider going back to the methods of the "brave days of old"? Would not such a step backward in point of time be a step forward in civilization and humanity and in the conservation of the race?

ARCHIBALD HOPKINS.
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 15.

More American Steamships.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. P. A. S. Franklin's idea of establishing an American line on the same basis or thereabouts as enabled the Cunard Line to launch the Lusitania and Mauretania is a good one.

Mr. Franklin is a thoroughly well informed shipping man. The scheme of refunding the loan from the Government, the rate of interest, &c., need not be gone into at this time. That would be worked out later.

The older steamers now running would form a supplementary "one class" line and enjoy a very profitable business. They could be taken over by the new company.

With an all American board of directors and heads of departments, a free field, equal advantages as to measurements and all possible encouragement, I think Mr. Franklin can drive the entering wedge. JAMES MOI. BROWN.
NEW YORK, May 15.

Chance for Heated "Patriots."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Our streets, highways, byways, saloons, theatres, hotels and boarding houses are just now full of patriots. Since they clamor for war with Germany, let me advise them to offer their services to either England, France, Russia or Servia, who seem to need them badly. Let these would-be patriots give an account of the faith that is in them.

ARTHUR T. PAINE.
NEWARK, N. J., May 15.

A Trouble Seeker.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Next to cows the most stupid things I know are the women who want to vote. I can prove it. RALPH B. AIMES.
NEWARK, N. J., May 15.

We Find It in Webster's and the Century Dictionaries.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In THE SUN of May 8 in an article headed "Orders End Put to Subway Crowding" I find the word "unsanitary." I believe there is no such word as "unsanitary" in our language. I venture to suggest that in your most excellent paper you use the word correctly, it being "insanitary."

MRS. ARTHUR T. CASS.
TILTON, N. H., May 14.

STUDY THE CRIMINAL.

One Way Only to Improve the System of Penology.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A comment on Judge Swann's "New Penology" as set forth in THE SUN seems pertinent since the author takes no account of the only feature in the so-called criminological problem which promises any hope for its solution, namely: intensive, scientific study of the individual offender to discover the causative factors of his departure from normal conduct.

Without such study and diagnosis there is no possible hope of ever reducing the criminal problem to any degree of scientific understanding. At present the "new penology" is as chaotic as was the practice of medicine in remote days when with no conception of the causation of disease a hundred or two remedies were jumbled together and given to a sick patient in the blind hope that something would hit something. The blunderbuss prescription method is still chiefly in vogue in dealing with prisoners.

This fact is recognized by a handful of persons who are laboring earnestly to institute diagnosis as a prerequisite to the prescription of treatment for the prisoner. The Laboratory of Social Hygiene at Bedford was established by Miss Davis for this specific purpose, and a few other institutions are doing similar work. Such study must become universal before reform or punitive institutions are worth a picayune except as detention places—criminal vacation schools, so to speak.

No matter from what angle viewed the lawbreaker is a not typical person. He has departed from the normal mode of conduct. The origin of the departure must be discovered, then he must be made to face the facts of his own particular abnormality. Until he is made to recognize his acts as abnormal there is small likelihood that he will alter them. It is a question of developing what psychiatrists term "insight."

The "New Penology" therefore doesn't call for the employment of "misdirected sympathy" nor coddling, nor is it a doctrine of non-resistance. It asks simply that the offender against society shall be interpreted and that the corrective treatment for which society pays shall show some reasonable degree of successful results.

ALBERTA S. B. GUIBORD, M. D.
BOSTON, May 15.

MORE GHOSTS.

Some Intimate Inquiries as to the Details of Certain Canvasses.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Just asking the space of two "sticks" in THE SUN for a few more apparently timely queries which are not designed for use as technical cross questions:

Was there a deplorable survival in the transcendent campaign of 1904 in this State of the antique and morally horrible practice of hiring for election day in advance in the up-State counties every available vehicle from an automobile to a haycart for the ostensible purpose of transporting legitimately and certainly every qualified holder of the franchise to the polls who was willing to undergo the exertion of marking and dropping a ballot for Roosevelt, Higgins and a straight or somewhat scratched Republican ticket? [Rightful Democratic title to priority in the use of this invention is not disputed.]

To what extent was another ancient practice carried in the same campaign of providing full paid jobs for the day for the independent farmer, adult sons and farm hands qualified to vote, or recompensing the trustworthy for the working hours consumed in devotion to the lofty aspiration of the doctors Jekyll for a full vote for the Republican ticket so specially sanctified on that memorable day?

Would it not have been a profanation of this reservation of carts, teams and motors generally if the improvident or impecunious Democratic committees had been permitted to get even a short, flitting use of any reserved vehicle for the reduction of Republican pluralities and the consequent clipping of the glee and glory of the best qualified director of the people and our national destiny?

STILL A LOOKER ON.
NEW YORK, May 16.

RUBBING FOR DEAFNESS.

Further Testimony of Relief From Scalp Treatment.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* For some years I had been under the impression that washing the scalp or using tonics for the hair was bad for the reason that it was thought to have a tendency to increase deafness, and when I read your correspondent's letter on the treatment of deafness by means of manipulation of the scalp and the use of tonics in connection therewith I was at first rather doubtful about the efficiency of the treatment. But I finally tried the plan, and am glad to say that it brought surprising results.

But what I cannot understand is why a wet scalp and rubbing should restore normal hearing. I cannot account for it. After trying the scheme I discontinued the rubbing and use of the tonic, with the result that the hardness of hearing returned; and with the resumption of the treatment I was again relieved. For many years I could not hear ordinary conversation with my left ear, but with the use of the above treatment the hearing in that ear became normal.

It would be highly interesting to learn what explanation ear specialists have to give for this phenomenon, and whether it can be utilized in the treatment of all cases of deafness, or whether it is only good for some special or particular cases. The habitual use of coffee does not appear to be harmful in my own case. WILLIAM E. SHERRILL.
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. Va., May 12.

Rub the Scalp.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* My attention has just been drawn to the clipping enclosed signed "Reader" and as I am anxious to try the treatment referred to, would appreciate your assistance in obtaining instruction details.

E. B. HURT.
MONTCLAIR, N. J., May 15.

Too Much "Back to Nature."

From the Indianapolis News.

Mayor Volland of Columbus has called a halt on the "back to nature" movement. So many people have heard the call of the onion bed, the lettuce bed and the truck patch generally that city property is being appropriated. In the suburbs are several streets and alleys not in actual use. People have ploughed up these thoroughfares and have things planted there. Mayor Volland has instructed the street commissioner to see that this ground is returned to the city.

Horse's Skull to Improve Acoustics.

Elizabethtown correspondence Philadelphia Record.

In demolishing the parsonage of the Lutheran Church, built eighty-two years ago, the skull of a horse was found imbedded in the wall.

In this section there is a superstition that if the skull of a horse is placed under the church it would help the acoustic properties, and the voice of the minister or any one occupying the pulpit could be heard to better advantage.

As It Is in Kansas.

From the Topeka Capital.

Nothing that you would care to have your name publicly connected with happens after 12 o'clock at night.

PLANS OUTLINED TO END GERRYMANDER

Law Convention Committee Shows Advantage of Proportional Method.

MORE CHOICE FOR VOTES

ALBANY, May 16.—The constitutional convention committee on suffrage, of which Patrick W. Cullinan of Oswego is chairman, has set June 2 for a hearing on the proposal to elect legislators by proportional votes instead of by districts.

Those back of the plan have issued a brief to show how much fairer the proportional method of election would be to the voters than the present system which permits gerrymandering of districts for the benefit of the party in power.

The three main objects of the proposal are announced as follows:

"First—To apportion the members of elected bodies fairly among the parties. Our present plan of electing representatives from single member districts by a plurality vote gives grossly unfair results. This unfairness is often aggravated by gerrymandering, which is impossible under proportional representation.

New York City as an Example.

"Take the case of New York city. In 1912 it cast 610,632 votes to elect twenty-two State Senators. The number of votes which ought to have been required to elect one Senator was therefore (610,632 plus twenty-two) 27,756. That number would be called, under the plan of proportional representation, the quota.

"Any 27,756 voters who desired to be represented in the Senate by a certain man ought to have been able to combine their votes and elect him without regard to how their fellow citizens voted.

"Out of that total vote the Democrats cast 298,124, or ten quotas, with a fractional quota of 20,564 remaining. The Republicans cast 133,461, or four quotas with a fractional quota of 22,437. The Progressives cast 148,947, or five quotas, with a fractional quota of 16,167. The Socialists cast 29,931, or one quota, with a fractional quota of 2,175. That would account for twenty Senators on full quotas. The remaining two Senators should have gone one each to the Democrats and the Republicans, who had the largest fractional quotas.

"The representation of the New York city parties in the Senate ought therefore to have been eleven Democrats, five Republicans, five Progressives and one Socialist. The actual representation was twenty-one Democrats and one Progressive. That was a simple outrage.

"Secondly—To prevent waste of votes and the practical disfranchisement of many voters. Every vote that fails actually to count in the election of a representative is wasted and the voter is practically disfranchised. In the above election 16,681 Democratic votes, 133,461 Republican (all the Republican votes), 130,230 Progressive, and 29,931 Socialist votes were wasted and the casters of them disfranchised.

"Under proportional representation only the fractional quotas of the Progressives, 10,161 votes, and of the Socialists, 2,175 votes, would have been wasted. All the Democratic and Republican votes and most of the Progressive and Socialist would have counted.

More Freedom of Choice.

"Thirdly—To give the individual voter a greater freedom of choice. At present in voting for Senator or Assemblyman the voter must practically choose between two candidates. If he is a good party man there is usually only one candidate whom he can vote for. If he is Hobson's choice for him, that is nothing.

"Under proportional representation, instead of fifty single member Senate districts the State would be divided into, say, five or six large Senatorial districts electing eight or ten Senators each. The voter would vote for one Senator only as now, but he could choose between eight or ten candidates of his own party.

"At present it may be that his party candidate in his district is distasteful to him, or is sure of election even without his vote, or has no chance at all of election, while in the next district is a candidate who needs his vote and for whom he would gladly vote but cannot.

"Another advantage of proportional representation in this State is that it would alleviate the friction between New York city and the rest of the State. While it might not much affect the total representations of the parties in the Legislature it would give more Republicans from the city and more Democrats from up the State so that the division between city and State would not be also a party division.

"Proportional representation is a mere theory. It has been tested and found practical," says the brief. "It has been for some time in use in various countries and has always worked easily and satisfactorily."

PEACE DAY IN THE SCHOOLS

Commissioner Finley Urges Fitting Exercises on Tuesday.

ALBANY, May 16.—John H. Finley, State Commissioner of Education, has made the following announcement: In the schools of the State, whose pupils are urged to read peace literature and sing peace songs on Tuesday:

"The 18th of May has been designated as Peace Day, and its observance has been asked by the American School Peace League. There is no better way to send to all the schools than the utterance of the President in Philadelphia to the 4,000 aliens who had just become citizens of the United States. And what was said to these aliens who had come from over the seas is as applicable to those who born in America have just entered citizenship or are on the way to it.

"The example of America must be special example. The example of America must be the example not merely of peace because it will not fight, but of peace because peace is the healthful and elevating influence of the world."

CHELSEA'S BELL HEARD AGAIN

New Clock Sounds Hours in St. Peter's Belfry.

The inhabitants of "old Chelsea village" were delighted yesterday by the sounding forth of the hours once more from a clock in the belfry of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church in West Twentieth street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues.

A little more than two months ago the old clock, which had been familiar to the "village" for more than