The Sun.

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## No Sectarianism in the Public Schools!

If that detail of the Gary school system which provides for the withdrawal of pupils from the schools for religious instruction is to be adopted in New York the practice must be rigidly safeguarded to render impossible any suggestion of proselytism. The obvious danger to which the plan is exposed is that children may be urged in the public schools either to take religious instruction or to take it in a particular faith.

Catholics, Gentiles, Jews and nonbelievers have for generations sat side by side in the public schools of this city without discord or difficulty. Parents and priests have attended to their religious training without conflict or contention. The public schools have devoted themselves to secular education, and it has not been recorded that they had too little to do in attending to the function.

The introduction of religious disputes in the public schools would do a thousand times more harm than the most beneficent results claimed by its most ardent advocates for the Gary system could repair.

## Will Brooklyn Swallow New York?

The registration for 1915 in the five boroughs in New York city is 9,000 in excess of that for 1914, when a Governor was elected, 1,000 less than the total in the last municipal canvass and about 30,000 below the figures for 1912, when a national campaign brought out a larger number of electors than any State or local contest can. In 1911, which may be described as an "off year," only 616,000 names went on the poll list, but comparisons between that year's registration and the turnout of 1915 are not valid, as the balloting in November will be of supreme moment.

It is discouraging to observe, however, that the questions to be submitted to the electors do not receive credit for the interest aroused in the election. The struggle for the District Attorney's office in Kings county is responsible for the gains made there, and Manhattan shows a falling off as compared with every year since 1911, and a gain of less than 2,000 over that year. The other boroughs show increases traceable to special conditions of growth in population.

The erection of Bronx county has greatly reduced the predominance of New York county, and this division will eventually have important consequences. This year New York has 251,187 voters in the poll list, and Kings 248,214. New York is losing in population. Kings is gaining. The problem in a few years will be not to preserve the autonomy of the Kings county political organizations but to keep them from swallowing the New York machines.

## A Tangled Problem.

Just where we should have landed had commercial events under the present tariff moved undisturbedly on to their logical conclusion is a matter too much involved in pure speculation to be discussed with much satisfaction. All we know is that up to the time when the war's upheavals threw everything into confusion business conditions were bad, were growing worse and that all the signboards along the road we were travelling seemed to point straight to disaster.

There were men accredited with sound business judgment who then believed the Underwood tariff was responsible for the trouble. There were others ready to demonstrate theoretically that there was no trouble to begin with and that if there was the Underwood tariff had nothing to do with it. Quite likely both groups believe now as they believed then. It should be of very little consequence whether they do or not. The war has passed a sponge over the entire controversy. Entirely new conditions in the country's commercial history now confront us and they are as complicated as they are unprecedented. Other and still more intricately tangled tariff puzzles are plainly foreshadowed as destined to follow close in the war's wake.

How unfortunate indeed would it be for the country were a thorough study of these problems, present and impending, to be hampered by any obstinate clinging to theories beyond possibility of application to existing facts and conditions! How deplorably ill timed would be any adherence to past convictions from mere pride of opinion! It is inconceivable that those on whom rests the grave responsibility of approaching with a clear head and an open mind the study of problems in economics so vital to the country's welfare would be swayed by influences so unworthy or that they would seek to postpone from pure self-opinionated obstinacy the meeting of an issue ultimately inevitable!

Whatever the merits or demerits of the Underwood tariff, it is now obsolete. The whole fabric of our tariff system must undergo reconstruction from the ground up. Its problems are to be approached from new angles but dimly illumined by precedent. Classic tariff theories and exemplars are on their way to the scrap heap with other wreckage of the war.

How lamentable would be a policy in Congress of temporizing and evasion in the face of a question so urgently demanding prompt and comprehensive consideration by the best intelligence of the national legislature; how intolerable would be making it a base for mere partisan wrangling!

## President Wilson's Purpose in Recognizing Carranza.

If the reason for President WILSON's recognition of VENUSTIANO CARRANZA and his party as the de facto Government of Mexico be sought within the boundaries of that republic, it will not be found. The military situation of the Carranzista forces does not justify it. The political circumstances of its leader give it no support. The personal qualities of CARRANZA, the record of his dealings with his followers, the history of his transactions with the United States, all combine to demonstrate the foolhardiness, the desperation, of a course that would entrust to him the rehabilitation of the disrupted nation. Where, then, is the factor that has induced President WILSON to adopt a policy that can be made successful only by the might of this country, and imposed on an unwilling people only through our physical intervention in a foreign quarrel?

The Congress of the United States will assemble in December. There will be an insistent demand for a complete and open investigation by a committee of its members into the relations of the Wilson Administration with Mexico. If, before this inevitable demand is heard, that Administration has taken no definite step toward a solution of the difficulties in Mexico, there can be no reasonable argument against, no definite and dignified opposition to, the projected inquiry. That inquest the Administration, contemplating the chaotic outcome of its vacillation, dreads for its possibilities of exposure and humiliation. But if an affirmative act has been prescribed, no matter what unwisdom and recklessness it reveals, the Administration believes that the inquisitors may be decently evaded, and the revelation of watchful waiting's painful history postponed, if not forever avoided.

The explanation of CARRANZA's victory at Washington, therefore, is found, not where his contributions to disorder and revolution have been made, but in the White House at Washington, where indecision and ineptitude have created a crisis whose necessities must at last be met.

Nor should the triumph of CARRANZA be underestimated, however short may be his period for enjoying its fruits. From the beginning he has refused to concede, to compromise, to give way. If he was to be used to meet the exigencies of our domestic politics, he would have his price. That price is now offered to him in every stipulation in the contract CARRANZA lays down the terms. Take the portentous matter of religious toleration:

"The Carranza Government has given guarantees that hereafter all religious persons will receive full protection in Mexico in the exercise or teaching of their beliefs, providing they have not participated and will not participate in the politics of Mexico."

Some assurance on this subject was essential to Mr. WILSON; the Catholics in this country have not been silent while their fellows in the church were persecuted by the Carranza junto. Hence the "guarantees," but their exceptions illuminate their real worth:

"As a matter of fact it is considered [in Washington] that the assurance given by CARRANZA will not open the way for the return to Mexico of clergy exiled from that country by him, as it has been charged by the Constitutionalists that the clergy expelled were so treated because they sought to meddle in Mexican politics."

Moreover, the guarantees do not extend to "religious persons"—that is, to priests and nuns—who may be accused in the future of participating in Mexican politics, and the decision as to what constitutes participation rests with the Carranzista politicians. Here is religious freedom of a novel complexion. The political "amnesty" granted by CARRANZA is of the same nature; pardon for those whom he decides to spare, the firing squad for those whom he fears or upon whom he would be revenged.

Obviously, CARRANZA must have money. By whom is it to be supplied? "American bankers," the Washington despatches say, "will be called upon to supply the funds to establish the Carranza Government on a solid basis." CARRANZA cannot get a cent in this country unless he can present the guaranty of the United States. Is that obligation to be assumed without a substantial agreement between the United States and Mexico as to the collection and distribution of Mexican revenues? If it is, the charge might as well be made against the United States Treasury originally as at a subsequent date. On the other hand, if CARRANZA should consent, which he would not, to confide the management of Mexico's national finances to American officials his makebelieve Government would not last a week, for the one thing on which all Mexicans are united is hatred of an American invasion, civil or military.

They hate us, and what is more to the point they hold us in contempt. They have been led to believe that we are powerless to enforce our words with deeds, and that in the ultimate test they are superior in arms to their neighbors across their northern boundary. For this the Mexicans and the people of the United States have Mr. WILSON to thank. What other opinion could be drawn from the Vera Cruz expedition, with its lack of objective, absence of purpose, and final failure to exact the penalty which was its avowed excuse? Throughout Mexico all factions are agreed that the United States essayed an invasion. Its troops dared not quit the protecting guns of its warships, and in this display of impotence gave the measure of its strength. Mr. WILSON has never confided to the American people the ambition that stirred him to that tragic venture. He made of it the text of a speech that has not been forgotten; the speech in which death and wounds were counted so lightly as against the suffering imposed by criticism. Its effects in Mexico are notorious; but its final purpose no American knows.

The latest Mexican adventure of President WILSON might be cited as a contradiction of much that has heretofore received his approval. It is. But in the inconsistencies and mutually destructive elements that compose the President's Mexican "policy," why single out one for special honor? The bargain of Saturday was struck to meet the extremities of domestic politics, to facilitate escape from an embarrassing inquisition, and if it reduces Congress to silence the object of Mr. WILSON will be achieved.

## For Policemen Denied Opportunities for Spectacular Acts of Heroism.

In the four new honors for merit which are now offered for competition to all policemen Commissioner Woods has attempted to establish rewards for those men in the force whom circumstance bars from consideration in awarding the medal for valor, but who by their diligence and conduct promote the efficiency of the department and extend its usefulness. It is a fact that all policemen are brave and daily risk their lives. Few, however, have opportunity for the particular exhibitions of courage to which the decorations for valor must be restricted and among the thousands ineligible for these coveted distinctions are some of the best men in the force.

Hereafter the department will award the medal of merit "for an act showing exceptional judgment, intelligence and ability," or for an original suggestion which in practice is shown to be valuable in improving police efficiency. "Exceptional merit," "commendable merit" and "meritorious police duty," ranking in this order, will be given for "particularly meritorious conduct in the intelligent performance of police duty, for exceptional judgment and presence of mind in a grave emergency and under conditions where the life or property of another was in danger, or for quick judgment and proper action in a trying situation tending to prevent loss of life or property or serious calamity, or for original suggestions tending to improve efficiency of the department." The board of honor will designate the recipients of the decorations, which will count in promotion examination equally with the awards for valor.

By means of these new incentives it is hoped to encourage a greater and continuing interest in all grades of the force in its routine work, which is not the spectacular rescue of imperilled persons, but preservation of the peace. A faithful patrolman to whom the chance is never offered to drag a sick man from a burning house will not be penalized in his progress to a higher grade by the good luck of another, but will be able to have his conduct count for him. A sensible scheme. The best policeman in town may never have an opportunity to attract attention to his unquestioned courage, but every day he can contribute to his record of intelligent and efficient conduct.

## The Advance on Bagdad.

There is complaint in England that the Mesopotamian campaign is being neglected in the news reports. Several famous regiments of British regulars are engaged in it, together with East Indian troops, marines and a naval contingent, under the command of a distinguished cavalry officer, Sir JOHN NIXON, but almost nothing is heard of their exploits. Yet it has been a campaign of uniform success under great natural difficulties. Its objective is the ancient city of Bagdad, immortally associated with HARUN-AL-RASHID and the "Arabian Nights." A fortnight ago the expedition was only ninety miles away, after a brilliant victory over the Turks. The insufficient reason for the dearth of information about this picturesque campaign is that the Indian Government is conducting it. The home authorities therefore give it scant attention, disregarding its appeal to the imagination, oblivious of the interest that friends in England feel in the British troops employed.

Sir JOHN NIXON's first success was the capture of the strategic port of Basra on the Persian Gulf, which will be the terminus of the Bagdad railway connecting the Bosporus with the Gulf, "the short cut to India." The expedition then fought its way through the swamps and shallow lakes of the lower Euphrates to the junction of that river with the Tigris. There a base was established. It has been said that "the advance which ended in the battle of Nasiriyeh involved greater difficulties than those experienced by the late Lord WOLSELEY in the earliest efforts to reach Khartum." A force was detached to guard the Admiralty pipe line at Ahwaz in Persia from tribal attacks. A very practical campaign this of Sir JOHN NIXON's.

Once established in Bagdad, and there is no reason to doubt the capture of the old capital of the Mohammedan world, the British campaign will be consummated. One of the most fertile regions of the Ottoman Empire, 400 miles by nearly 200 miles, will have been conquered. It is a very long and a rough road to Constantinople, and the expeditionary force is not strong enough to fight its way through. If the Allies prevail in the war, England, in possession of Bagdad and the lower valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates, will control the great railway the Germans coveted and the country occupied will be claimed. There may be reasons for reticence in London about the campaign in Mesopotamia. Politically it is of prime importance.

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The campaign of WOODROW WILSON for renomination has begun with the distribution of buttons bearing his portrait printed in blue ink. It is a most inappropriate color scheme at this happy season.

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Forty pupils in a Jersey law school are pondering the question, propounded by their professor: "In a baseball game a pitcher throws the ball to the batter; in whose possession is the ball while it is in the air?" It would seem that somewhere involved is the principle of "swatter sovereignty."

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Mrs. JOHN ROGERS, Jr., of the Woman's Political Union disagrees with President WILSON's opinion that "it is time to extend the privilege of voting to women." That time came, Mrs. ROGERS says, in 1776. It will put a terrible strain upon the election machinery if women are to have all their back votes.

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Devoted followers of baseball who plan to watch all of the games for the world's championship are rejoicing because the struggle is not between a nine from San Francisco and a team representing Philadelphia.

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May bar fiction from the public libraries.—*Newspaper headline.*

What would be left? After the novels were put on the rubbish heap the dreary rows of official reports, the sociological offerings, the histories, the political economies, the theological works would go; geographies, biographies, atlases, encyclopaedias, the most pretentious and solemn of them are full of fiction. If censoring the book stacks is to be part of the Board of Estimate's work its task will never be finished.

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It is now against the law to treat in a London public house, and not a few residents of London heartily approve the new regulation.

## MR. NEARING'S CASE.

### A Philadelphia Opinion of His Relations With the University.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The statements of fact on which the editorial article of October 4 entitled "Exposing a Martyr," concerning the Nearing case, based its conclusions were apparently derived from the communication of Dr. J. William White, one of the trustees of the university. The most important of these statements were flatly and categorically denied by Professor Nearing in Monday's papers. Dr. White was simply misinformed.

In all this controversy no question has been raised by any one as to the sterling character and integrity of Professor Nearing. His word is accepted at its face value. Every one who knows him believes implicitly in these denials.

Professor Nearing was dismissed "not because of unfitness for the work he was charged to do, not because of any utterance by him within the precincts of the university, not because he was an unclean man, but because of public utterances of his views in public journals, on the lecture platform at semi-public places, but no one has ventured to make any direct charge against him. His enemies' attacks are based upon assumptions and not upon facts." These are the words of another trustee of the university, Mr. Wharton Barker, published in the Philadelphia papers in defence of Professor Nearing.

The truth is that the summary dismissal of Professor Nearing was due to his agitation against child labor and his attack on some of the inequitable economic conditions that are the cause of involuntary poverty; to his ruthless exposure of special privileges and of monopolistic franchise utility corporations as private assets. He attacked in general unearned incomes as detrimental to social welfare. It is said, and doubtless truly, that his agitation along these lines angered and antagonized vested interests and beneficiaries of unearned incomes whose self-interest and peace of mind were jeopardized. For his dismissal they brought strong pressure on the trustees indirectly through political channels, who threatened, if he was retained, the withholding from the University of Pennsylvania of the large annual contribution from the treasury of the State. Thus, if this is true, were the people of the State betrayed by their political servants through the suppressing of a champion of their rights and liberties. Thus was freedom of speech stabbed in the back.

Because this is an important public question and not a private one it will not down. PASCHALL.

PHILADELPHIA, October 9.

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### Adapting an Old Ballad to Modern Conditions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* You ask what has become of the once popular song:

"New York will be a bully town
With its buildings up and its pavements down."

It probably died from lack of appreciation, because, like the works of Thomas Paine, it was written half a century too soon.

It might again become popular if, brought down to date, it was made to read:

"New York is sure a bully town
With its pavements up and its buildings down."

NEW YORK, October 9. T. P.

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### Is That You, Age?

My grand dad was an awkward old man,
Raw boned and that sort of thing,
I followed him down the village street
With youth's conceited swing.
Till we passed the teeming country store,
Where I faltered and wanted to cry,
For grand dad held his jaw agape
As he peered at the summer sky.

Just now came a knock on my office door,
Sad fact which I cannot hide;
I glanced up absent mindedly,
With my mouth held open wide!
Is that you, Age?

H. S. HASKINS.

## PROTECTION.

### How the European War Shields America From Competition.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Just at present European manufactures are not being imported into America, except those which owing to climatic and mineralogical conditions cannot be manufactured here. The imported manufactures are an essential and potential factor in the finished products of certain lines of manufacture in the United States, and because of this fact should be admitted free of duty.

There would be as much sense and logic in imposing a duty on such commodities as there would be in imposing a duty on coffee, tea or attar of roses, which owing to the peculiar climatic conditions of Brazil, China and the Balkans can be grown with a profit, but which never could be grown in this country because our climatic conditions are unfavorable. To digress a moment, it is much more profitable and feasible to exchange our cotton goods, boots, shoes and metal manufactures for their tea, coffee and perfumes.

The preponderance of our exports in manufactured goods—one must not be misled by the form balance of trade; if we export manufactures, we import gold in payment therefor, and if much of this obtains it means a period of high prices—is in materials used by armies in warfare: clothing, surgical implements and supplies, boots and shoes, food, munitions of war and machinery for making guns and munitions.

Because of the conditions existing in Europe the manufacture of these commodities is in a state that compels the purchase of them here.

It has been proclaimed broadcast by protectionists that the protective duties are imposed to equalize the cost of manufacture here and abroad, and because of this impost our workmen are protected. The European war has exploded that theory. Our industries don't need protection now. Examine carefully the protected industries and you will discover that it is not protection that is needed, it is a demand for their products, and with this demand comes work for the American workman. If an industrial stagnation exists in certain lines it is not because the protective tariff is not in force. In effect the big war protects our workman against competition from his foreign brother. Why then is not every wheel turning and every fireside brightened by glowing and happy faces brought about by employment and good wages?

Little or no competition exists, so no need for protection. The cause of industrial stagnation and depression must be sought elsewhere, certainly not because we have a low tariff. We can't get the goods we need badly and certainly not because we haven't protection against competition. The great armies of Europe operating against each other has given us the highest measure of protection accorded us. P. J. W.

LYNDHURST, N. J., October 9.

## FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION.

### Is It Just to Require the Taxpayer to Support Pedagogic Fads?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Can anybody give a good reason why the city should furnish and the taxpayers should pay for the education given in the College of the City of New York? The State is interested in the education of its citizens, but to what extent? Surely not to the extent of giving each citizen who desires it a college education. It seems to me that when the State has furnished the old fashioned primary and grammar school education it has done its full duty and should stop at that point. That is what we got in old School 16 over in Greenwich Village forty-five years ago.

Plain reading, writing and arithmetic taught by good, hard working, painstaking teachers who earned their salaries, every single penny. But even in those days the Board of Education was a fruitful field for faddists to exploit their theories, just as it is now, all at the expense of the taxpayer. Do not leave the taxpayer entirely out of sight. We have now what is called vocational training in some of our schools. When vocational training is mentioned everybody is expected to lift up his hands and his voice in admiration. But pray, what is this vocational training? For what vocations are the students trained, and in what does the training consist? This is another costly experiment to be paid for by the city of New York, and as a taxpayer I would like to know something about it. Up to the present time I have not seen in a newspaper any explanation of vocational training.

MICHAEL J. SCANLAN.

NEW YORK, October 9.

## BASE INGRATITUDE.

### Reprehensible Thoughts on Detroit's Greatest Sociologist.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Acknowledging the fact that we are blessed with a man who has given his fellow men a means of transportation of the most economical kind, I want to ask if we, the public, should consider seriously the emanations exuding from the gray matter of this gentleman on matters of vital interest to this country and the whole world, which subjects ought to be founded on a solid rock, who puts together a few pieces of tin, chewing gum and leather and calls said combination an "automobile."

Are we to be led and advised even up to the Capitol at Washington on cheap ideas?

Are we as a nation to consider, even for a minute, the policies advised from this source?

May I smoke a cigarette, please?

Are his ideas as to national welfare built on the same lines as his automobile?

In other words, are we to assume that matters of vital interest to the "whole crowd" should take form by a lot of hot air and tin, thrown into a vat, boiled and drawn off as a perfectly "good policy" manufactured?

Is our Government to base itself on a foundation of tin and advertise by methods of stories?

Personally I am sore at heart that so many people should take seriously these "brainstorms" from Detroit.

I will admit that I drive a "Tin Lizzie" for economical reasons, but my business is based on reenforced concrete.

A TRAVELLING MAN.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., October 9.

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### John Quincy Adams on the Attitude of a Neutral.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the writings of John Quincy Adams I find a sentence which states the proper war attitude of the American mind: "As men we must undoubtedly lament the effusion of human blood and the mass of misery and distress which is preparing for the great part of the civilized world, but as the citizens of a nation at a vast distance from the continent of Europe, of a nation whose happiness consists in a real independence, disconnected from all European interests and European politics, it is our duty to remain the peaceable and silent though sorrowful spectators of the sanguinary scene."

One of the reasons he gives for this "impartial and unequivocal neutrality between the contending parties" is that, "whatever may be the current of our sentiments or of our opinions, whatever may be the language suggested by our passions or the wishes inspired by our affections, we are not constituted judges of the respective merits of their cause. Non nostrum tantas componere lites."

CHESTER, October 9. J. A. M.

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### Physical Limitations of the Hog on Ice.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A hog has very sharp hoofs and when he puts them in the ice he can neither fall nor slip, and there is what the old saying is derived from. M. S. B.

NEW YORK, October 9.

## SOUTH AMERICAN CREDIT.

### Senator Lewis Taken to Task for Suggesting a Billion Dollar Loan.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Senator James Hamilton Lewis's proposition to lend a billion dollars to the South American republics instead of the same amount to England and France is absurd. Sterling exchange rates indicate that the loan to England and France is essential to the commercial activity of American interests. Whatever is so required in international exchange is equally beneficial to South America. If the value of the pound sterling is low in New York it is almost certain that a like or worse condition obtains in banking circles in South America, as nearly all the business of the countries with foreign countries is stated in sterling.

Senator Lewis might have suggested a reasonable loan or credit extension to the South American States without violating the rules of reason, but a loan of a billion dollars to South America is absurd and not needed. It is doubtful whether the republics of the south would take advantage of the offer of so much money, if it were made. To what uses it could be put to bring in a fair return is as obscure as the Senator's sudden generosity to the southern continent.

Loose talk of South American openings and opportunities has caused considerable loss to Americans, and brought to those countries many who would not have otherwise left the United States unless they were sure of a large salary and no work. There are openings down there, but not for men with neither money nor a knowledge of the countries and the conditions they must meet. The opportunities for investment are many, and South American land is not to be despised, but land is sold in large lots and the holdings are not suitable for the small investor. Men with money who will take the trouble to buy Argentine land and place it under cultivation will find one of the best paying propositions in the entire continent.

South America has passed through very hard times during the last two years and is just emerging to a sense of financial responsibility that does not include European assistance or loans. Those countries are trying to secure a stable currency and a safe policy in the handling of their affairs financial and commercial.

South America needs ships to carry the grain and other products out of the countries, and needs elevators to handle next year's crops. There are other things needed which seem to be disregarded by some politicians. The South Americans have stood a considerable amount of commercialized talk, but now they have reached the place where they want to be treated with the same consideration as the United States employs in negotiating with other countries.

But a billion dollar loan, never! It would be the ruin of those States that accepted it, for they could never pay the interest on the greater part of that amount, as they are already pressed to pay the interest on present outstanding obligations.

To offer a billion dollars to South America might have just the opposite effect from that desired, for we must not forget that there are many down there who still believe that it is the object of the United States or of the American trusts eventually to control those countries through loans or in some way equally sure.

The National City Bank of New York is quite familiar with conditions in the leading Latin American republics, and it seems certain that when the time arrives for big loans to those States they will be handled in such a way as to preserve the credit of the countries to which the loans are made and the interest and principal to the investor. The City Bank has already made wonderful progress down there in commercial service as well as in a banking way.

FRANK N. WEST.

VINEYARD HAVEN, MASS., October 9.

## TAXING THE WOMEN.

### A Reply to Mr. Van Zile on Taxation Without Representation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Having read the article of Mr. Edward L. Van Zile on suffrage in THE SUN I would like to call his attention to a fact which has apparently escaped him.

The well worn suffrage slogan of "Taxation without representation is tyranny" is not applicable to the case in hand. James Otis made this remark, though the suffragists in their "Appeal for Liberty" attribute this "immortal maxim" to the Declaration of Independence, and when he made it he was talking about the taxation of the Colonies by England, when we had no representative to defend us. England taxed us and used the money, not for the benefit of the Colonies, but for the benefit of England. The taxes paid by women in this country to-day are used for the benefit and protection of these same women. They receive police and fire protection, good roads, good schools—and if they do not receive these last, it is, in many instances, their own fault, as they have opportunity of voting on that subject, though statistics show they rarely do so—and they are exempt from jury and sentry duty. The cases are not parallel and cannot be compared. It really seems time to relegate the "taxation" argument to the background. With men only voting, the property of these tax paying women is better protected than if they voted themselves, because only 8 per cent. of the women pay taxes. The vote will not be given to this 8 per cent. alone; it will be given to the remaining 92 per cent. as well, among whom are the ignorant, the alien, the vicious as well as the virtuous. What do the majority of these women know or care about the tax paying women's property? Are they as likely to guard the property owner's interests as are the men, a large proportion of whom are also property owners, having therefore identical interests? This very simple point does not seem to appeal to the suffrage intellect, but any one who will give it a few moments thought will see the force of it.

As to the "white light" thrown by "Western States on the problems of democracy," it seems to be a flashlight and frequently "red." The statistics of crime of every kind in Colorado do not show betterment of conditions as the result of twenty-three years of woman suffrage, and Judge Lindsey, himself a suffragist, is honest enough to say among many other remarks of the same kind, "Women in politics are just as good as men, and no better." We all know what is happening to Judge Lindsey to-day in that model State, and can draw our own conclusions.

Mr. Van Zile refers to this Government as a democracy. In a democracy the majority should rule. Inasmuch as only 10 per cent. of the country demand the franchise, what right have men, either young or old, to force such a burden on a majority who are either actively opposing it or else are so indifferent as not to ask for it?

Some suffragists give as one reason for asking for the franchise in spite of the opposition of the majority of women that they do it in order "to save anti-suffragists from themselves," a piece of unwarranted impertinence, for the anti-suffrage party includes women of as high character and intelligence and morality as any in the country.

This is, I believe, the first instance in history where the proposed enfranchisement of any class has been fought by the class to be enfranchised. As Mr. Van Zile quotes, "Facts are stubborn things."

MARY ELLEN ROBERTS.

UTICA, October 9.

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### Meticulous Accuracy in Vital Statistics.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is there a more silly bit of surplusage than the invariable response "No, it's a girl" to "Is it a boy?"

S. K. WILSON.

SWARTHMORE, Pa., October 9.

## SALUTING THE FLAG.

### A Civil War Veteran's Ideas on True Reverence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent Helen Connolly says that in Boston it is customary for men to raise their hats to the United States flag as it passes in the Odd Fellows parade, and that it is a custom which every American should adopt.

In reply I would say, as a man who served in the army from 1862 until the end of the war, and who was among the first to join the volunteers in 1898, and who, even now, although bearing the three score and ten mark, would fight the world if need be in defence of my adopted country, that there is altogether too much hypocritical nonsense in saluting the Stars and Stripes whenever they appear, be it in I. W. W. parades or anarchist parades, or, worst of all, the parades of that dangerous and un-American organization the labor union, of which I am sorry to say I, like thousands of others, had to become a member or let my family starve. The flag is also saluted when it appears on the vaudeville stage, on the screens of the movie shows and elsewhere.

If a sensible discerning American would only carefully observe the class of persons who always go into hysterics every time they see the flag displayed in the above places he would find that they are those of our most worthless citizens, either actuated by sordid motives or mentally or morally deficient.

Good, honest, upright citizens will always treat the flag with respect and are always ready to salute it on proper occasions, and to defend what it stands for at all times, but they are not hypocritical or foolish enough to salute it when carried by societies, whether they are good and lawful or unlawful and mischievous.

If societies wish to carry the flag I am not aware of any objection, but for persons passing to salute it would be as silly as to salute it when unfurled over the back wall of a bar room.

PATRICK O'NEILL.

NEW YORK, October 9.

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### New York Is Apparently Indifferent to the Flag.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The letter of Miss Helen Connolly in THE SUN states something that is most regrettable, but true.

I occasionally parade in uniform through the streets of New York, and about once in seven blocks we will pass somebody who when the flag passes will remove his hat. The rest of the crowd gaze in a most apathetic manner, and the flag has as much meaning apparently as if it were a blank piece of cheesecloth.

It is a pleasure to pass a sailor on shore leave or a soldier also on leave. They always stand at attention, and as the American flag approaches they take off their hat with the right hand, and holding it practically over their heart stand motionless until it is well past. You can always tell a soldier out of uniform, for he always does the same, although probably making himself most conspicuous thereby.

Why cannot every one salute the flag?

ONE WHO GUARDS THE COLORS.

NEW YORK, October 9.

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### Boston Is Not the Only Patriotic City.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Referring to Helen Connolly's experience and surprise at the people of Boston raising their hats as the American flag passes by, I can state that Boston is not the only place where such respect and honor are paid to our flag.

I have seen this respect paid many a time on Broad street, Newark, N. J., and I was one who raised my hat with many others.

I have seen the same thing done in Chicago. NEWARKER.

NEWARK, N. J., October 9.

## IN DEFENCE OF GREECE.

### One of Her Loyal Sons Resents Bulgarian Aspersions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In THE SUN of October 9 appeared a letter from "Bulgarian" regarding Serbia's faith. He also accuses the Greeks as treacherous and greedy: "They robbed Bulgaria of territory rightfully belonging to her, rule over it now by tyranny and murder." It is my duty, not only as a son of Greece, but also as a lover of the truth, to assert the following:

Greece did not provoke the second Balkan war, but the order of General Sabof, who on June 16, 1913, treacherously attacked Serbia and Greece.

Greece did not rob Bulgaria of lands in the second Balkan war, for all the lands belonged to Turkey; the only real provinces that Bulgaria was robbed of are those of Dubrutcha and Silistria, which were taken by Rumania and which "Bulgarian" forgot to mention.

The Grecian Macedonia rightfully and historically belongs to Greece, for instance, Cavala, Drama, Serres, are purely Greek cities by population and commerce. So the Bulgarians have absolutely no legitimate right to those districts.

I am a reader of THE SUN since I learned to read English, six years ago, and I never saw in its columns any terrors and murders committed by the Greeks, as "Bulgarian" asserts, such as have been committed by the hordes of the Bulgar comitajs (irregulars) during the Turkish rule and during the last Balkan wars. Justice and security of life and property have reigned throughout new Greece for these three years, without distinction of race or religion. "Bulgarian's" statements and accusations are absolutely groundless.

ARISTOTLE VAFKERITIS.

NEW YORK, October 9.

## GERMAN STREET BANDS.

### Are They Recruited From the Liners Interned at Hoboken?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The folks who are execrating that "feetle German band that travels through the land" might be a bit considerate if not entirely charitable. It is the custom aboard German passenger ships to have a band made up of the ship's people, generally those of the steward's department. Any one who has ever been on a trip to the West Indies on a Hamburg-American liner, for instance, will recall the morning and evening concerts by the ship's band, and may, like myself, have whirled in a merry dance on a flag draped deck to the music of those faithful servitors.

The war has tied up many German ships in the port of New York. Their crews are not prisoners of war, but through no fault of their own they have been thrown on the town. They would probably rship gladly if they had the opportunity, but they can't, so here they are. Hence, it is surprising that those among them who can "pipe a lay" should seek to barter their musical accomplishment for the price of board and lodging?

It is a pretty difficult job for a stranded seaman to fit into a landsman's line of work, even in normal times. Just now, therefore, the German seafaring man is pretty well "up against it." If with his footstool he runs frequently to "The Watch on Rhein" it is probably because he knows that best.

At all events, I am not prepared to believe that he is seeking anything more harmful than a living among us.

JOHN WORTHY.

NEW YORK, October 9.

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### Academic Competition.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now that seventeen "immortals" have been added to the Hall of Fame of New York University, isn't it time to enlarge THE SUN's Hall of Fame?

I nominate Skipwith P. Cole, of Washington, D. C. GEORGE D. MITCHELL.

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 9.

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### High Finance.

Knicker—Did Jones want you to advance him some money?

Becker—No, what he really wanted was for me to retire him some money.

# TAFT URGES ACTION TO PREVENT WARS

## Tells at Mt. Morris Baptist Church Need of League to Keep World Peace.

## THINKS NOW RIGHT TIME

Ex-President Taft in an address at the Mount Morris Baptist Church yesterday morning replied to the criticisms which have been made of the programme of the League to Enforce Peace, of which Mr. Taft is president.

Mr. Taft, explaining why the league was formed, said that the present European war had made Americans realize that the attitude of neutrals with respect to war was growing more and more difficult and that the crisis in American relations with some of the belligerents could not have been possible about a hundred years ago.

"We find that the interests of neutrals are sacrificed more in modern conditions of warfare than they ever were before," said Mr. Taft. "We shall continue to have war as long as Governments are made of men and men have the human nature and the defects of human nature that lead to controversy and ultimately to war. The business of men who are practical men is to look about for some plan, not to abolish war but to furnish a means of avoiding war, furnish some machinery by which war, when it threatens, shall be made less probable."

### Points to Past Arbitration.

After citing the work of the Supreme Court of the United States in settling controversies between States and the arbitration of various questions which have arisen between the United States and Great Britain as precedents, Mr. Taft said:

"We have got into the habit of arbitration with Canada and Great Britain, so that any one who is reasonable, when a question arises between us and Great Britain and Canada feels certain that we are not going to war about it but that we will settle it by arbitration.

"It is said, and properly, that this is a departure from the rule against entangling alliances laid down by Washington and that it is giving up the enormous advantage that we have in our isolation between two oceans. That advantage has ceased to be very large since Washington's day. The practical distance between here and Europe is now one-quarter or one-fifth what it was in Washington's day. The mode of conducting war is such that we are a great deal nearer to every European war than we ever were before, and the question is whether we as a nation, without prestige and resources and responsibilities for what God has given us, are going to say that we will be selfish and stay out of something that we are bound to, at any rate, and not run the risk of a war, even though our moral force is needed to prevent such a world catastrophe and such a retracing of steps as we are now, in Christian civilization, witnessing in Europe and the world around.

### Power to Carry Out Treaties.

"We are a sovereign nation, able to do what any nation can do. Our treaty making power is as wide as the treaty making power of any nation. When we make a treaty through that treaty making power then the obligation is on our Government to perform that treaty through the organ in our Government that has the power to perform it. That organization is bound by that agreement. Of course it may break it. Congress may refuse to make war under these conditions; may refuse to pay the money that we are bound to pay. But it isn't unconstitutional for us to agree to bind our people to do that which we think we ought to do. Then when we come to do it we will do it through the properly constituted agencies to perform that contract.

"They say we can't bind ourselves to make war. Why, we have already done it. To begin with, our Monroe policy is, as relates to us, an obligation on ourselves to make war. But you say that is not a contract. It is not. It is not a treaty. But take the guarantee of the integrity of Panama, of Cuba. That binds us to make war against any nation that will attempt to take away Cuba or destroy its Government or to destroy the Government of Panama. Did we have the constitutional right to make that treaty? Did we make it through Congress? No, through the Senate and the President. But that binds the Government of the United States, and if we make war Congress is bound by that obligation to declare war. So you have exactly the same kind of obligation and the same kind of constitutional exercise of power in that guarantee as we would in this league of peace with referendums into a war to prevent a general war by resisting the attack on one member in violation of that member's rights, that faith in this league.

### Problem in Finding Aggressor.

"Then it is said that it would be very difficult to determine who is the aggressor. I agree. That does present a difficulty, but that I submit is a debate in respect to the settlement. If you make this league it would have a council in the league. That would be a court.

"Then finally it is said that the league is premature. Well, I don't know what your experiences with the American people are. I assure you they are very keen witted people. But they do have some qualities that are like the people of Missouri—they have to be shown. And there isn't any reason why we should not begin a discussion of this in