The Sun.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1915.

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

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Month	25
SUNDAY (to Canada), Per Month	50
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 50
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 50
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	75
FOREIGN RATES.	
DAILY, Per Month	1 25
SUNDAY, Per Month	65
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	1 90
THE EVENING SUN, Per Month	25
THE EVENING SUN, Per Year	2 50
THE EVENING SUN (Foreign), Per Mo.	1 08

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

Published daily, including Sunday, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 150 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. President and Treasurer, William C. Reick, 150 Nassau street; Vice-President, Edward P. Mitchell, 150 Nassau street; Secretary, C. E. Luxton, 150 Nassau street.

London office, Effingham House, 1 Arundel street, Strand.
Paris office, 6 Rue de la Michodière, off Rue du Quatre Septembre.
Washington office, Hibbs Building.
Brooklyn office, 106 Livingston street.

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The Recall of the Attachés.

When President WILSON notified the German Government of the desire of the United States that the military and naval attachés of the imperial embassy in this country should be recalled their departure with such celerity as the circumstances permit became a certainty. A curious misconception seems to have existed in the minds of certain individuals, some of them not opposed to the Administration's course, as to the rights and etiquette of the situation.

That the Germans should attempt to force upon us persons assigned to their diplomatic establishment who were unacceptable to the authorities at Washington was impossible, and an early recognition of this fact would have prevented considerable useless argument.

BOY-ED and VON PAPEN have done their work, achieved the probably not unexpected termination of their services here and will depart in good season. They follow DERNBURG and DUMBA. Our sincere hope is that it will not be found necessary to increase materially the list of those to whom the hospitality of America cannot consistently be extended, and we shall cherish this hope until it is shattered by the inescapable impact of disillusioning fact.

Noise.

Leaving to the statisticians and accountants the task of figuring out what percentage of the street noises that afflict New York are unnecessary, the tortured seeker for repose comforts himself with the hope that in time his tympana may become sufficiently calloused to protect him in his rest and save him from the impact of flat wheels, faulty rails, unwrapped girders, horns, bells, raucous venders and the thousand and one other demons of disquiet that assail him. Deafness becomes a boon, and the reputed insensitiveness of the civilized ear a happy provision of nature to ease her children. All the sufferer knows is that most of the racket is preventable, and that no agent of administration has yet seriously attempted to quell the clamor.

Now Commissioner WOODS, having surveyed the streets and endured their needless clang and boisterousness, has set his patrolmen at work to moderate the distressing sounds. Their power is broad. The ordinances set forth that "no person shall make or encourage any improper or unusual noise * * * to the annoyance of travellers or of persons residing" in the town; there are paragraphs specifically regulating pedlers, junkmen, showmen, musicians, carters, the jugglers of ash cans, delivery men and other enemies of quiet. The police are to warn, reproach, and when necessary arrest:

> "Commanding officers shall inform themselves of all the laws and ordinances on the subject of unnecessary noises.
>
> "They will be held responsible for their strict enforcement in the territory over which they have supervision."

Not luxury alone would be subserved by the substitution of reasonable quiet for the din that now obtains. To-day men and women are driven from the city, compelled to their medical advisers, robbed of their vitality and taxed in their nervous energy by the banging, shouting, detonating uproar that rules. It costs individuals and the town health, comfort and money, and if the police will reform it they will deserve high place on the roster of public benefactors.

New Japan in Old China.

It is said that rebellion in China would be welcome to Japan as a pretext for intervention and seizure of the agencies of government. Aside from the international complications that would spring from such an act, the possibility is an interesting phase of the racial whirligig.

In the view of modern scholarship it is erroneous to credit Japan with an antiquity rivalling that of China. Japanese chronology is not based upon carefully preserved records, but is a product of retroactive legislation, framed in 1872. The Japanese are a composite of various stocks, and we have to go back only some 1,300 years, not three or four millennia, to find their civilization taking form. In his recently published history of Mikadoism Dr. WILLIAM ELLIOT GRIFFIS, whose authority is competent, says:

> "About the same time that our Teutonic fathers, unlettered and savage, came into contact with the Romans, the tribes of Nippon entered definitely into relations with the Coreans and Chinese, who were the lettered and civilized peoples of eastern Asia."

A few hundred years ago the suggestion that some day Japan might desire to administer the affairs of China would have been about as sensible as would be to-day a forecast of the Filipinos running the United States in the year 2500.

Tuberculosis Week.

Last Sunday sermons were preached in many churches the pastors of which are not less mindful of the bodies than of the souls of their charges, upon tuberculosis, its prevention and abolition as the scourge not inaptly called the White Plague.

Thus was Tuberculosis Week inaugurated among enlightened people who will, it is believed, spread the gospel of health among their neighbors and friends to the end that mankind may be emancipated from disease and premature death and from the destitution which these avoidable agencies bring upon large numbers of those who represent the bone and sinew of the land.

The bureau of education of the Department of Health has issued a circular dwelling upon the fact that, tuberculosis being still the most pressing health problem of the day, the establishment of Tuberculosis Week may become a reminder of this fact. It is well that we realize the duty we owe to ourselves, our families and the public to endeavor to solve, even in part, the terrible problem.

Prevention being the most effective measure, THE SUN would reiterate its oft repeated advice to protect the system against invasion of the omnipresent bacillus of tuberculosis by hygienic living, especially in the home surroundings, food, regular habits of sleep, fresh air, and removal of insanitary elements in occupations. Since childhood is the period in which the seed of tuberculosis is usually planted, the food of infants, and proper care of their bodies, need to be emphasized. The milk stations and visiting nurses to teach ignorant or indifferent mothers their duties are practical methods of building up the constitutional stamina of the children of the working people. If our women's clubs would add to their activities, most of which aim at personal improvement, committees to visit the homes of wage earners to whom they might impart by kindly inoffensive suggestion valuable instruction in the management of milk and preparation of food, sanitation of their dwellings, &c., they would not only enhance the happiness and welfare of these people, but make a valuable contribution to the abolition of tuberculosis.

Financial aid from concerts and other philanthropic enterprises, some of which, like the Paderewski concert, have brought large financial results, to be applied to the treatment of the tuberculous, is welcome, but it serves a far less effective purpose than the same energy and money spent in domiciliary visits for purposes of prevention would achieve.

Unfortunately it has become the mode to satisfy one's conscience with a money gift to a good cause rather than by personal service, which not only serves the purposes of philanthropy but also brings satisfaction to the individual.

Disappearance of the Great Spy System.

Attorney-General GREGORY'S report has been awaited with unusual interest because it was believed that in it, if anywhere, should be found the outline of the scheme of which so much has been heard for creating at Washington a superpoliceman, empowered by Federal statute to override the Sheriffs and peace officers of States, and generally to bring within the purview of the United States those crimes that hitherto have been left to the local authorities to handle. But Mr. GREGORY proposes no such innovation. His recommendations are far from startling; only three of them may fairly be said to flow from the crimes which have created in the hearts of the over timid acute distrust of our present criminal system, and these are obvious and minor requests for strengthening the laws in details, and not pleas for their overhauling.

The Attorney-General asks for no new weapons, and seeks to disturb no familiar instrument for the detection of crime and the apprehension of criminals. His attention is fixed on the immediate needs of the Government within its accustomed field of activity, and in that he appears to be reasonably satisfied with the implements at his disposal.

We shall have no elaborate spy system, with its secret agents designated by numerals only, its accounts audited in the dark and its superior power paralyzing the State and local officers. The principal law officer of the Government does not even hint at such a bureau; and if he does not champion it, who will?

Unsigned Letters in the Hunt for Foreign Trade.

Everybody knows the irritating correspondent who implores from us a favor in a typewritten letter bearing at the bottom of the last sheet the rubber stamped legend "Dictated, but not read or signed by Mr. Blank." Strong is the friendship, astonishing the good nature, that can withstand the impulse born of that impudent phrase to destroy the communication and ignore the request; how much greater the discourtesy when even the pretence of a signature is omitted!

Yet our Consul-General at Valparaiso, Chile, L. J. KEENA, has found it necessary to protest officially against the flood of unsigned letters from American business men, and to urge greater care in this important detail of the search for foreign markets. He says:

> "Unsigned business letters from American firms which have been received here are criticised by the Chilean recipients, and their criticisms have been confirmed by the increasing proportion of letters coming to this consulate general without signatures.
>
> "The comments that have been heard apply to three classes—letters asking for information, letters of acknowledgment and those making business offers. It is unlikely that a letter of the third class, unsigned, would inspire much confidence here, as the conclusion would naturally be drawn that it had received purely perfunctory attention on the part of the writer or had been written by some one who had no authority to sign it.
>
> "An unsigned offer of sale creates an impression similar to that which was produced several years ago when numerous letters were sent out by business houses in the United States conspicuously stamped: 'Dictated, but not reread.'"

It is plain that the first effect of an unsigned or "dictated but not reread" letter is to arouse suspicion as to the good faith of its author, fatal to confidence, which not only prevents the serious consideration of any proposal contained in the offending communication but will act as a bar to friendly reception of future offerings. The writer may believe he is adopting a subtle method of encouraging inquiries for his product without committing himself as to prices and deliveries; in fact, he is discouraging belief in his sincerity and discrediting the commercial body in which he is a unit.

The Garrison and General Staff Defence Plans.

The War Department shrewdly arranged that the publication of Secretary GARRISON'S proposals for an army of defence should precede the publication of the views of the War College Division of the General Staff Corps. The two reports might have been published together, but the civilian Secretary of War wanted to have the first word in an inevitable controversy. So in his report, given to the press in the morning, Mr. GARRISON anticipated the plan of the War College Division which was to see the light in the afternoon, and argued that however satisfactory it was to the professional mind, it was visionary and impracticable.

The details of Secretary GARRISON'S plan were first published several days ago in the form of a bill to be submitted to the military committees of Congress. He would increase the regular army, auxiliaries included, to 141,843 enlisted men and officers, from a present complement of 108,008 when the ranks are full; to reenforce the regular army he would raise a volunteer or continental army (as he calls it) of 400,000 men at the rate of about 133,000 a year, and train them two months in each of three consecutive years, these volunteers to be subject to call to the colors during three more years; he would have the Federal Government make larger appropriations for the National Guard to increase its efficiency.

To this plan the War College Division of the General Staff would not give its approval. It proposes to increase the regular army to 230,000 men and officers by a system of enlistment, two years with the colors and six with the reserves, which in eight years would "result in approximately the following mobile forces at home available at the outbreak of war: mobile regular troops (combatant) with the colors, 121,000 men; the regular reserve, 379,000—a total of 500,000." The War College Division, contending that twelve months intensive training is the minimum for war service, further recommends that 500,000 more troops "should be prepared to take the field immediately on the outbreak of war, and should have had sufficient previous military training to enable them to meet a trained enemy within three months." It is apparent that the War College Division would consider a volunteer force like the continental army unfit to take its place in the second line of defence, and but little more effective than the militia. As even a million men might not save the country from aggression, it is still further recommended that provision be made, under the act of Congress of April 25, 1914, to raise citizen armies to reenforce the first and second lines.

The preparedness urged by the War College Division is based upon estimates of the number of men that other Powers could land, or attempt to land, on our coasts according to available ship capacity after we had lost control of the sea. Thus it is set forth that Germany could disembark 387,000 men in 15.8 days and 440,000 more in 30.8 days later; France 160,931 and 243,295 respectively; Japan 95,945 and 142,622; Italy 91,000 and 136,000. The estimate as to British potentiality was made before the expansion of her army and only one expedition of 170,000 appears in the table. Therefore the conclusion is that the War College Division's plan of defence was adjusted to the menace of Germany. Obviously the number of troops required to deal with an invasion by any other Power would be much less than a million men.

Secretary GARRISON says that his proposal "proceeds upon the basis of existing conditions of a legal and constitutional nature, and recognizes existing institutions and the feeling of the people concerning the general subject matter." It is evident that the War College Division did not consider these limitations at all. Mr. GARRISON'S continental army will be attacked in Congress because at best it would be a volunteer force of doubtful effectiveness. The War College Division plan will be regarded as extravagant in theory and impossible of execution. A middle course will have to be taken if effective preparedness is to be authorized by legislation.

Mayor Mitchel's Reply.

Mayor MITCHEL'S formal rejoinder to the charge that under his administration the task of removing the steam railroad tracks from Eleventh avenue had been neglected has been published. Its adequacy cannot be questioned. It reveals the fact that at the moment the assault was delivered against him the final details of an apparently practicable solution of the problem were under consideration.

The railroad could not be evicted from its right of way by heated rhetoric. The suspension of its service would inflict grave injury on the city. Agreement between the municipal authorities and the managers of the road, in which the rights of all should be safeguarded, offered the only reasonable method of relieving the city of a danger inherent in the present arrangement.

This agreement, it appears, Mayor MITCHEL was seeking and had almost attained when his good faith was brought into question; and the announcement of the plan approved, a plan that possibly may require adjustment in certain details before it is finally adopted, is a more convincing testimonial to the diligence of his administration than any eloquence of protestation could be.

There's no doubt about the complete preparedness of the Colonel's vocabulary.

Mr. FORD led the way, visiting the stokehole, chatting with the stokers and examining the engines. He frequently expressed interest in the engines and the men that run them. "I love these, I could make them myself," he commented.—*Wireless message from the Ark of Peace*

If Mr. FORD makes peace before Christmas the world will allow that he is capable of making anything from a monkey wrench to a walking beam, but it may be suspected that Mr. FORD'S impression that he can make peace, or anything else he has never made, has no other foundation than his self-satisfaction as a manufacturer of the runabout automobile.

It's better to talk through a hat than a hyphen.

If fidelity were a very common trait, Truck, the White Plains Fire Department dog, would not have had a funeral attended by 200 firemen and their friends and been buried under a marble shaft.

Our constructive work has started an irresistible movement which cannot be stopped.—*President* WILSON.

There is always some difficulty in stopping an irresistible movement.

When Lord CHARLES BERESFORD says that "our [the British] war staffs have not been consulted as to whether they had the men and material for enforcing the different policies inaugurated by the Cabinet," his reputation as a chronic fault finder cannot be brought up against him, for the Dardanelles enterprise (as also the Serbian) was a stroke of policy, and certainly it was forced upon the General Staff without providing the needed men and material.

Just what is the percentage of demands to disavowals at present?

El Paso avers that "eight bandits, one a woman, who stole more than $1,000,000, are to be executed in public in Mexico city as an example." There will be executions no doubt, but has there been a million dollars to steal in Mexico for some time?

Georgia has a boy of 14 who is growing at the rate of a new suit of clothes a week. His parents may feel that there is such a thing as carrying a boom too far.

At an auction sale of autographs a George Washington apology was sold for $110, and an Abraham Lincoln pardon fetched $102.50. Assuming that the prices were not affected by superheated competition among the bidders, but represent normal valuation by the collectors of curios, it would be interesting to know just what factors determine these prices. This is the only apology written by WASHINGTON we have ever heard of (it was for opening a letter by mistake), but LINCOLN wrote many pardons.

The popularity of St. Louis as a convention city with the Democrats rested upon the fact that at present everybody in this blessed country comes from Missouri.

Greece remains unable to tell the frying-pan from the fire.

The Mosquito Devouring Dragon Fly.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have read with interest of the mosquito destroying bat; would that there were more of them! They doubtless do destroy many kinds of noxious insects. But the beautiful big dragon fly is also an enemy of the mosquito and is to be seen in the neighborhood of stagnant water, the habitat of the "skeeter." Let no one destroy dragon flies. I have watched a lot of them of an evening darting after the mosquitoes like so many swallows or martins.

There is no harm in the dragon fly. Country children frequently call it a "horse stinger." I regret to say it is frequently caught for fishing bait and fetches good prices. W. F.

ARLINGTON, N. J., December 10.

No Pork This Year!

Knicker—What is your slogan?

Bocker—Millions for defence, but not a cent for distribute.

GERMAN PATRIOTS.

A Reading in History for Ammi Wright's Benefit.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In Ammi Wright's argumentative letter of December 1 your correspondent says that "when my German critics have lived longer under the American flag their allegiance will become more deeply rooted; then the flag will mean more to them. It will be more precious to them, and their loyalty will come more from the heart and *less from the lips than it does now.*"

What a libel when we recall history!

Ammi says in the same article: "My forebears have breathed the free air of America for nine generations and they have given faithful support to the Republic ever since it was organized." Having enjoyed this free air Ammi and forebears should have known of those who helped to keep it free for them unless they did not care to know who did it since 'twas done.

Let us try to recall some memories of those who did it or helped to do it.

I served in the civil war in a volunteer regiment, and have copies of the official records and know whereof I speak, and offer as fitting reply to the unjust language of Ammi the records of the State of New York, which show that thirteen full regiments of infantry, also cavalry and batteries, went forth as German volunteers for the flag to defend the Union when the country was in great danger.

This was from one State only. What must have been the grand total from all the States?

In addition to these thirteen regiments of Germans nearly every other regiment had a percentage of them. Read of the glorious records of the New York Twentieth, Twenty-ninth, part Thirty-ninth, Forty-first, Seventh, Eighth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, Fifty-second, Fifty-fourth, Fifty-eighth, Sixty-eighth and One Hundred and Third, all gallant German regiments that shed their blood on many battlefields. The names of their officers show their descent, and it is the memory of these gallant patriots, these martyrs to the flag, that Ammi slurred when he wrote these words.

I am not German, but as a native American and fellow soldier to these men I honor them for their true loyalty to the flag of the United States, their great sacrifices and, despite Ammi Wright, their thorough knowledge of what that flag stood for.

I would ask Ammi to say in what way he and his forebears showed during the civil war a greater love of this country and its flag, and did more than did these contemptuously styled hyphenated American Germans, who did not boast of having enjoyed the free air of republican America for nine generations, procured perhaps by others, but when the country called offered themselves nobly as true Americans, not hyphenated, that Ammi and sisters and cousins and aunts might continue to have all the free air they needed for joy riding.

E. J. RILEY.

BROOKLYN, December 10.

LOGOTHETIC TEDDY.

Is Some One Organizing a Museum of His Contumelious Inventions?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I hope some one is making an anthology of the vituperative epithets used by Mr. Roosevelt for foreign and domestic purposes since the war began. Each has its own peculiar picturesqueness, and yet each has so much more punch than the preceding that it is difficult to keep the relative merits of all of them in mind.

I have a sneaking suspicion that "Byzantine logothete" is after all a shade too daring, too fantastic. It does not stand the clear white light of reason as well as some of the less imaginative flights of the same mind, like "mollycoddle." The difference between the root meaning of "logothete" and the meaning it took on through Byzantine usage is somewhat disturbing. It is one of those words that you cannot quite forgive for not meaning just what they ought to mean when you look them up.

As for Mr. Roosevelt's reference to the logothete's "elocution," this conveys to me the vaguest of ideas. Will not the Colonel or some other equally erudite gentleman furnish us with a few samples of the commodity in question so that we may relish, instead of missing, the literary parallel it affords to the Presidential style? H. M.

NEW YORK, December 10.

STEUBEN'S COMING.

Another Review of His Pilgrimage, With a Word for the Hessians.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The contributor of "The Steuben Myth" communication has, no doubt unwittingly, thrown peculiar side lights on certain historic facts which may make them misleading to those not perfectly familiar with history. In commenting upon my letter he says "Steuben was found, employed and sent here by the French Government at its expense." Let us analyze that statement.

Steuben was Adjutant-General on the personal staff of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia. After the Seven Years war, and while visiting friends in Paris, "at the instance of the friends of America, and with the advice and concurrence of the Minister of the United States in France," Steuben came to America late in 1777. "He had made no arrangements with the commissioners in France." He "borrowed from Beaumarchais the money needed to fit him out." In Steuben's letter to Congress of December 6, 1777, he says in part: "I have come here from the remotest end of Germany at my own expense"; "I have made no conditions with your deputies in France, nor shall I make any with you. My only ambition is to serve you as a volunteer"; "I should willingly purchase at the expense of my blood the honor of having my name enrolled among those of the defenders of your liberty."

I ask any fair minded man, does that look as though "Steuben was found, employed and sent here by the French Government at its expense"? Steuben was a German. Had he been a Frenchman France justly would have been accredited with at least a part of his valiant aid "in our hour of greatest peril," and it was in that generally accepted sense that I accredited Germany in my letter.

Surely Beaumarchais's money was not the French Government's; and it was only a loan by one friend to another, not a gift, that Steuben accepted from Beaumarchais. It was therefore Steuben's money for the time being. Steuben came to our aid with the knowledge and consent of his king, Frederick the Great of Prussia, the Germany of those days, and at great personal sacrifice of money and position.

That his services were properly appreciated by our forefathers is proved by the resolution of thanks tendered to Steuben by Congress on April 15, 1784, as well as by the gift of a gold hilted sword then authorized by Congress.

Just a word in closing, to the credit of the "Hessian hirelings." When the better element among them found out the conditions under which they were to fight here for Great Britain some of the officers and men deserted the English ranks, joined Steuben's troops and fought bravely for our liberty (see War Office Record, August 29, 1778): Resolution: "That a new corps of troops be raised by the name of the German Volunteers to consist of such deserters from the troops which have been or shall be in the service of the king of Great Britain as shall be disposed freely to enlist therein." And it is not without interest to add that some of the descendants of these very "deserters" are now good American citizens. S.

NEW YORK, December 10.

Diplomacy After Midnight.

Officer—Go home.

Outlate—Gimme shafe conduct.

THE TRUE PREPAREDNESS.

Adequate Military Resources That Are Quickly Available.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* To be prepared is to be ready to act at a moment's notice. The value of any plan of national defence centres in its availability when the moment arrives to test it. In other words, the only preparedness worth while is "instant" preparedness. Will you permit a more or less close student of national and international affairs to doubt if the plan to be submitted to Congress has the approval of the naval and military authorities? That plan calls for the establishment of a very large army reserve, created by volunteer service for a few months each year and the very extensive enlargement of our naval forces through a building programme running over a period of from six to eight years.

It has been said that there are but three ways in which the United States can be attacked, viz., the Atlantic coast, the Pacific coast and the Canadian border. This does not take into consideration the Mexican border, the Panama Canal, the West Indian islands, Hawaii, the Philippines, Alaska or the Monroe Doctrine. All of these, however, might be included in the coast categories except the Mexican border, and that we have with us always. There is no great likelihood of trouble on the Canadian border, and if there was trouble the trouble would also be on the Atlantic coast.

The danger, if it exists, is to the Atlantic and Pacific coast lines. A large citizen army would be of no great avail against a Power attacking either or both coasts unless we admit that we are unable to keep away the enemy's warships and transports. The coast must be defended by submarines, mines and forts. The American navy is second to none in personnel and such equipment as it has, but I think that naval commanders will say that it would be foolhardy for the Atlantic fleet to risk battle unless it knew that the defeat of whatever force it was obliged to meet meant a decisive blow at the enemy's naval resources. In other words, it might not be wise to allow an enemy to send to our waters a fleet large enough to tempt the American fleet to battle and which, even if defeated, could inflict enough damage to make the way easier for the next fleet which came over.

It would seem, then, that our first line of outer defence must consist of the seagoing submarine. Have we enough submarines for such a purpose? We have not. Have we mines enough for the mining of every harbor on both coasts, the canal, and our outlying possessions? We have not. I do not know just how well the coast forts are equipped or manned, but Congress cannot do better than to see that they are so equipped and manned at once.

If there is no cause for alarm in this country then the campaign for national defence is a fraud. I believe there may be cause for alarm. If there is cause for alarm it must be because some nation or combination of nations may plan an attack upon us. The pretext could easily be found when, after the war in Europe, some of the nations try to crowd our commerce off the seas or because we persist in declaring that a brown man need not expect to enjoy freedom with a white man.

If there is danger, will somebody please explain why the United States expects that the nation or nations which expect to attack us will wait six or eight years before doing so, or until we have completed our defensive measures? Has there been some oracular declaration to that effect, or has the bolt from the sky which struck Europe a year ago last July no lesson for the United States? War is made when those engineering it want it made. If you go gunning for a man, knowing that he will get you or you will get him, you don't wait until he has barricaded himself behind the armored shield of a loaded rapid fire gun. If you see a prairie fire coming you start a backfire, don't you?

Won't some one tell Congress that what the United States needs is an instant, emergent defence? Won't some one please tell Congress that the elaborate programme outlined by the Administration is not worth two cents to the people unless it is backed up by a defence which shall be instantly effective? Won't some one please tell Congress that the lesson of the present war, the lesson written in blood and destruction in Belgium, in France, in England, in Russia, in Serbia and at the Dardanelles, is the supreme value of instant defence? Won't some one tell Congress that without that sort of defence, and in our case that sort of a defence is a naval and coast defence, a modern army equipped with modern artillery would reenact here the woful scenes of Europe?

Won't some one induce Congress to order, at once, the building of 100 submarines, at a cost, approximately, of $75,000,000, or the cost of four modern battleships? Won't some one induce Congress to appropriate at once sufficient money for the manufacture of mines and for the equipment of our coast forts and for the building of more forts where needed? Won't some one tell Congress that the people of the United States want a defence that will keep an enemy away from our shores, not a defence that cannot be used until hostile artillery is dropping shells in our back yards? Won't some one tell Congress that the people of the United States are not afraid to spend money for defence, but that they want a defence which will be instantly effective, and that that defence rests upon a flotilla or flotillas of undersea craft ready to meet cruisers or battleships or transports headed for our shores?

Won't some one please tell Congress that the problem which it must solve is not so much that of citizen soldiery or a defence eight years from now, but a defence which will be effective a month from now, a year from now, whenever it may be called upon? MARS.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., December 10.

SUFFRAGE SILENCE.

The Anti-Suffragists' Delight Over the Idea.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The recently announced decision of the suffragists to treat certain anti-suffragists with "West Point silence" is as amusing as it is wise. It has been repeatedly proved that they cannot answer anti-suffrage arguments, so what better policy, under the circumstances, could they adopt?

If they would only extend the same treatment to many other persons and topics, what a blessed relief it would be to the country at large, deluged with floods of suffrage eloquence.

Suffragists despise all women who do not believe as they do, and all men no matter what they believe. It is curious, though, that women who consider themselves competent to run the affairs of the nation do not seem to have been able to run properly their statements in regard to election receipts and expenditures. The Corrupt Practices Association has just been hauling them over the coals for incorrect returns of election expenses.

MARY ELLEN ROBERTS.

NEW YORK, December 10.

T. Kelly.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The article about T. Kelly, the Irishman who emigrated to this country about the time of the Irish famine, deserves an honored place in the treasured scrap book.

Surely this fighting race would keep the American Irish Historical Society busy in rescuing from the studied oblivions to which our school histories would consign them the names of many a Hercules Mulligan and Thomas Kelly.

CHRISTOPHER J. LANE.

NEW YORK, December 10.

OUR MERCHANT SHIPS.

Less Federal Interference, Not Government Ownership, Needed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now that the revival of the ship purchase bill has been officially launched it behooves sober minded people to turn the limelight on and keep it on. This scheme could easily become one of the famous scandals of the century. It is doubly dangerous because of its possibilities in the line of patriotic mouthing and didactic academic slush.

We have had a merchant marine which we deliberately destroyed by fool legislation. If there is any industry in the world which seeks its level like the water on which it floats it is shipping. All, absolutely all that is needed to create and restore our merchant marine is the repeal of the laws that are strangling it and the enactment of new regulations that will meet world competition. All things being equal we would enjoy at the present time a special advantage as the one great neutral nation. A great deal of the belligerent and nearly all the interned shipping would naturally gravitate to our flag.

On the other hand, imagine the United States Government as the sole customer for the interned shipping of the central empires. Of course every transaction of the Government itself would be above suspicion, a voucher could be shown for everything; but think of the influential army of go betweens. Hundreds of thousands of tons of shipping which would become a total loss in case of defeat, to be sold at a price to only one customer, the richest Government in the world. Picture the vast army of reformers and uplifters busy on such a proposition. There would be an uplifting of graft to break all records.

JAMES A. RADCLIFFE.

NEW YORK, December 10.

ANOTHER NOTABLE HEN.

Transcript From the Authentic Record in the "Golden Ass."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your reporter has been carried away by exuberance after listening to the wiles of a publicity agent. Doubtless Lady Eglantine has given a very creditable performance, and no one would decry the honors showered upon her.

Nearly 1,900 years ago Apuleius in his "Golden Ass" related the following:

> But while they were drinking jovially a most astonishing prodigy took place.
>
> One of the hens in the poultry yard, running through the middle of the yard, kept up a continual cackling, as if she wanted to lay. On this her master, looking at her, said:
>
> "Notable servant that you are, and remarkably prolific, for this long time you have treated us with your daily productions. And now, too, I see you are thinking about helping us to a dainty morsel. Boy," said he, speaking to one of his servants, "get the basket that the hens lay in and place it in the corner as usual."
>
> When the boy had done as he was desired, the hen, refusing to go to her nest as usual, produced before the very feet of her master a premature offspring and one of a singularly ominous nature. For she did not bring forth an egg, as we usually see hens do, but a chicken, perfectly formed, with feathers and claws, eyes and voice, which immediately began to follow its mother about.

So we cannot call Lady Eglantine peerless among fowls.

FRANK W. HOYT.

MONTCLAIR, N. J., December 10.

FOR THE BOY SCOUTS.

Let Some Philanthropist Erect His Monument in Their Fund.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Boy Scouts seem to be stirring up the city this week, endeavoring to get the budget required to meet expenses for three years. What are they going to do then? Try it over again? Why don't they ask some one to endow them with a million or so?

It would be a good monument for some one, some one who might even like to do it before a monument became necessary; the interest would cover the budget they ask.

In arranging that it might be diverted in case the monument fulfilled its destiny or lost its punch by putting the power so to divert it into hands of five institutional heads of public office holders, any objections might be overcome.

I give this suggestion without prejudice. N. A. TURE.

NEW YORK, December 10.

SHAKESPEARE TO-DAY.

Ignorantly Acted, Ignorantly Read —That's All the Trouble.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Of late there has been discussion, not always intelligent, of the public's attitude toward Shakespeare. One actor, having earned a good deal of money by performances of Shakespeare, finds his business has fallen off, and concludes therefore that Shakespeare is dead. A beginner essays one of the great characters of the master, and her admirers come to the same conclusion. The commercial theatrical manager says the public knows what it wants; and he is very wise.

The actor of to-day is engaged chiefly because of his appearance. The choice of a *Romeo* usually is made on the judgment of externals. The thoughts and feelings to be portrayed are not considered. That is why we have had very often somewhat effeminate *Romeos*, when the quality imperatively demanded is masculinity. What sort of success could be hoped for this sublime work the casting of which began with so egregious a blunder?

The public resents the spurious claims of the untruthful press agent; resents the pretensions of actors and actresses whose chief claim to recognition is that they are related to somebody else; resents the commonplace emanations of the commonplace minds that furnish its dramatic fodder; resents the lying announcements of the billboards and the unwarranted comparative price for such so-called entertainment.

Success in any undertaking worth while is rarely attained without much devotion, many sacrifices and years of time given to "learning how." When an actor emerges with a trained voice, a trained body, a trained mind and a trained nature, the public will be quick to recognize a great talent, and there will no longer be heard the cry that the public doesn't want Shakespeare.

But encouragement is necessary. A few years ago an actor of great capacity, of whom the public seemed to know little, presented an odd play. It was commercially the turning point of his career. One night, in my rooms, I made him a Welsh rabbit. I said "You look so much stronger, so much younger." The eloquent eyes lighted up, the broad, generous lips widened, and with a smile that beggared description, he said very quietly, "Don't you think a little success has something to do with it?" For years this gentle, heroic nature toiled on, living on hope; to-day he is idolized by his countrymen. "You are still young," he said. "You must be patient—it will come in time." His *Hamlet* will live when the characters of the present day plays are forgotten, his influence will survive.

On the hundredth night of "Hamlet" a man broken in health and spirit came to my dressing room, in his hand something wrapped up in a piece of newspaper. He opened it as though he were undressing a baby. It was a steel cross hilted sword. He said "It belonged to Macready; Edwin Booth gave it to me. I want you to have it." Eben Plympton was a truly great actor, and would have been alive to-day had he been "encouraged."

The trouble with Shakespeare is that he is ignorantly acted and ignorantly read—that's all. JOHN E. KELLERD.

NEW YORK, December 10.

TAFT GIVES IDEAS FOR WORLD PEACE

Ex-President Writes to Constituent Bodies of U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

WANTS NEUTRAL COUNCIL

Ex-President Taft, president of [illegible] American Branch of the League to Enforce Peace, has written a letter to [illegible] the constituent bodies of the United States Chamber of Commerce urging their cooperation in favor of a national plan for world peace to be worked [illegible] through international agreement when the European war ends. Mr. Taft's letter is predicated on a referendum [illegible] the United States Chamber of Commerce recently submitted to the chamber's members throughout the country on a report of its special committee on economic results of the war and American business.

In this report the special committee makes practically the same recommendations as are favored in the world peace plan of the League to Enforce Peace. It is intended that some 750 commercial and business organizations in the United States pass upon the report and the resulting vote will represent the sentiment of approximately 300,000 business firms and corporations in forty-eight States of the Union. Besides the constituent bodies in this country Mr Taft has also written to the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris, Berlin, the Levant and Milan. His request for cooperation follows on the heels of the referendum to which Mr. Taft refers.

"The friendly reference made to the platform of the League to Enforce Peace on page 4 of referendum No. 11 of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America," writes Mr. Taft, "seems to the officers of the league to create a natural occasion for calling it to your personal attention and to that of your members.

"At the same time I want to extend a cordial invitation to you and through you to the members of your organization to join the league and to cooperate with it as actively as you are able in the organization that is about to be undertaken in your State.

War Less Threatening.

"The irremediable injury that would result to the whole world in case a way should not be found at the close of the European conflict to make war less threatening and to render it less frequent has induced a considerable number of leaders in the realms both of statesmanship and of business to combine in an effort to create sentiment in our own and other countries in favor of the proposals that were put forward at the Philadelphia conference.

"The obvious and urgent need that led the committee of the Chamber of Commerce to draw up its admirable report and the board of directors to authorize its submission is an eloquent argument in favor of a combined effort to do all which human ingenuity and devotion can to prevent the recurrence of such a catastrophe as the world is now experiencing."

The proposals of the League to Enforce Peace referred to by Mr. Taft in his letter which was given out by Herbert S. Houston, vice-president of Doubleday, Page & Co., yesterday, were adopted in Philadelphia. The terms [illegible] that the United States shall join a league of nations who shall agree to the following:

1. The establishment of an international tribunal or world court, which shall pass on all justiciable questions arising between nations. 2. The establishment of an international tribunal to be known as a council of conciliation which shall pass on all non-justiciable questions; that is, questions which can not be settled in accordance with the principles of law and equity. 3. The signatory Powers to use forthwith their joint economic and military forces against any nation which has joined the league but which goes to war or begins acts of hostility against another of the signatories without first submitting its quarrel to a court or board of arbitrators, as provided in sections 1 and 2. 4. The adoption of a code of international law through a series of international conferences.

In the report of the special committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States recommendations are made that the United States take the initiative in bringing about conferences of neutral nations looking toward the enunciation of rules governing an international police court and international police force.

DEATHS LAID TO EFFICIENCY.

C. M. Hansen Tells Engineers Annual Toll Is 50,000.

The thirty-sixth annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers yesterday resolved itself into an industrial safety session for the time being. A paper on "The Standardization of Safety Principles" was read by Carl M. Hansen, secretary of the Workmen's compensation service bureau of this city, who said that safety is not a legal question and that laws can fix the responsibility only after the accident. The ultimate responsibility, he says, rests on the engineers and architects who in their struggle for efficiency have failed to make the machinery and the buildings safe for the workers.

Charged up against true efficiency as a result is an annual toll of nearly 50,000 workers, he said, while millions of dollars are added to the cost of production because working conditions are not made safe. Standardization, Mr. Hansen explained, means that equipment shall afford all possible safety to life, limb and property from accident and fire hazards.

Melville W. Mix of Mishawaka, Ind., read a paper on "Modern Movements [illegible] Safety from the Viewpoint of the Manufacturer," in which he [illegible] claim that too many guards [illegible] guards weakened the instinct [illegible] preservation. His paper [illegible] verse criticism. W. H. [illegible] retary of the National Safety [illegible] also read a paper.

John Price Jackson, [illegible] State Labor Commissioner [illegible] Patterson, safety engineer [illegible] Car Manufacturing Company [illegible] Electric Storage Battery [illegible] H. Barr, consulting engineer [illegible] Remington Typewriter Company [illegible] ard Waldo, consulting engineer [illegible] Barth of Philadelphia also [illegible] the discussion.

The spring meeting will [illegible] Orleans in April. Last [illegible] closed with college reunions.

AUTOS CAUSE NEW AILMENT

Called "Chauffeur's Knee" by Members of Medical Profession

Many physicians have been [illegible] by drivers of automobiles [illegible] the knee, which is made worse [illegible] ing upstairs or by the operation [illegible] machines. The doctors call the [illegible] "the chauffeur's knee."

Dr. Gustav F. Boehme, Jr., [illegible] at the West Side German [illegible] says in the current issue of the New York *Medical Journal* that treatment consists "of cessation from driving, [illegible] short time, with local applications of aluminum subacetate of lead and [illegible] solution."

"Passive movements with massage and baking," he adds, "should be begun early to prevent stiffness of the knee."