The Sun.

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Mr. McAdoo on the Wicked Management of the New Haven.

One of the surprising incidents of the otherwise variously astonishing trial of the New Haven directors in a Federal court was the introduction of the subjoined letter, written about one hundred months ago and by its author marked "Personal":

"Dear Mr. Mellen: You have no doubt read The Sun of to-day, but for fear it may have escaped you I enclose it. This is too good for you to miss.

"I am afraid that there is more truth than poetry in The Sun's brilliant satire, but there are, I am glad to say, a few signs of returning sanity on the part of public officials, as, for instance, Governor Hughes's veto of the two cent per mile railroad fare bill.

"I am enough of an optimist to believe that the country will, sooner or later—although I fear later than sooner—realize that the leadership of the Pharisees, who have been in control for some time, is not the unmixed blessing that so many now believe it to be.

"I congratulate you on the progress you are making toward the acquisition of the Boston and Maine and hope that your plans may be realized. I do not see how any broad gauged and progressive man can take any other view than that it will be beneficial to New England. I recall our conversation on this subject a few months ago.

"With best regards, believe me, sincerely yours, W. G. McAdoo.

"June 14, 1907."

So fast does the water run under the mill it is perhaps necessary to explain that this is the same William Gibbs McAdoo who, as Secretary of the Treasury, is one of the principal figures in the Administration now prosecuting the New Haven directors for the very experiment in railway expansion which eight years ago commanded his enthusiastic approval and disinterested admiration. We are obliged to our contemporary the *American* for not allowing this particular document to pass unnoticed amid the voluminous testimony and literature of the New Haven case. For our own part, we are delighted to be able to make more intelligible to the present generation the quality and significance of the earlier views of this statesman and financier concerning what is moral and permissible in railway management, by reproducing the essential parts of the editorial article in these columns which struck him as so timely and true:

From The Sun of June 14, 1907.

"THE THRILLING STORY OF MELLEN'S INVASION OF MASSACHUSETTS.

"President Charles S. Mellen of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, who so recently at Washington rivalled the fame of Mettus Curtius, has again distinguished himself by a deed of sublime audacity. Beacon Hill is hoarse with the Massachusetts equivalent for 'Lynch him!' Last year Governor Guild became aware that the impetuous Mellen was buying up Bay State trolley lines and threatening to spend millions of tainted money in connecting them through backwoods regions which have less population than they had twenty years ago. 'Monopoly!' shouted the fearless young disciple of the All Curber. He commanded the Attorney-General, principally through the newspapers, to prevent in the courts if possible the expenditure by the accused Mellen of any more poisoned lucre within the confines of the Commonwealth for the development of transportation. The invader was haled before the Great and General Court and compelled to promise not to reduce further the number of trolley straphangers or bereft any more the jungles of Massachusetts, until his plans should have been judicially examined.

"All went well until one day last month when a horrible chill struck the spine of every lover of liberty. The Old Guard, who pine for the days when Boston's transit system was split into a dozen companies and who objected to the trolley car anyway, because, they said, it would go so fast as to hurt the eyes of lookers on and the wires would drop and kill people, awoke one morning to read that Charles S. Mellen, not sated with spending $150,000,000 in five years in rolling stock, roadbed, bridges and trolley lines parallel or tributary, was about to jump the fence and work similar havoc with the dear old Boston and Maine.

"In order to understand the bitterness of the discovery it must be remembered that it is contrary to law for a railroad incorporated in Massachusetts to grow. If such a company has the money to buy a connecting line there has to be a hearing before the Railroad Commission, and while this is going on somebody else buys the connecting line. The same beneficent statute provides that where new stock is issued for improvements the commission shall fix the price at which the shareholders of record may purchase. Usually people can get all they want in the market at a lower figure, hence recent issues have not been screeching successes.

"It is thus clear why grief smote the conscience of Massachusetts at the prospect of a Connecticut corporation coming in foot free, buying up Boston and Maine control, and making what should properly be outlawed improvements, even perhaps to include a four track modern road to Montreal.

"It was seen at once that this sort of thing was in danger of building up the port of Boston. Had it been known then, as it is now, that the New Haven was able to make traffic arrangements with the New York Central, giving Boston practically a trunk line to the Lakes, there would probably have been prostrations, if not fatalities, in State street. As it was, President Crocker of the Chamber of Commerce gasped 'I'm against it!' and straightway lost his voice.

"Louis D. Brandeis, president, secretary, treasurer, director and membership of the Public Franchise League, resolved unanimously that rather than permit Boston's sacred wharves to be littered up with packages and her proud ways to quake with the thud of heavy laden trucks he would drop the battle for savings bank insurance and draw bills, both special and general, compelling the New Haven to give back the Boston and Maine stock and prohibiting forever the retirement of President Tuttle of the last named company.

* * * * * * *

"One thing remains to be done if Boston is to be saved from becoming the scene of vulgar commercial activity and a jostling populace of the unelsurely. It must be enacted by the Great and General Court that no person possessing shares of stock in one railroad company shall acquire shares in any other railroad."

This is what was too good for the wicked Mellen to miss, in the opinion of our distinguished Secretary of the Treasury, as expressed while the latter was congratulating Mellen on the progress he was making in the capital iniquities of expansion and consolidation.

If, however, we now depart from our usual practice and reprint the foregoing remarks, it is not because of any undue exultation on our part over the circumstance that we had once the felicity of agreeing closely with the Hon. William Gibbs McAdoo about the folly and futility of excessive regulation of the railroads by the Government. It is merely in order that the countless friends and admirers of Secretary McAdoo may know his underlying and esoteric views on the subject; views which he so successfully (and, we believe, unnecessarily) manages to dissemble in the august presence of his father-in-law.

A Christmas Trench Exit Long Ago.

The boys actually were out of the trenches by Christmas on one occasion; out in time to make a Christmas call on some neighbors who were not in the least expecting them. They had a hard march of it, too, before they got there. But there was no difficulty in following their trail. General Wilkinson, who had a communication for their commander, has told in his memoirs how easily he tracked them by the blood stains they left behind them in the snow, for it was bitter weather. Snow and ice were on the hard frozen ground and a good many of the boys had such mere wrecks of shoes that they really might just about as well have been barefoot and done with it. As it was the ice and the sharp frozen ruts did their work and the boys wrote the story of their walk with their blood at about every step.

But it was good blood, American blood; and with a lot of other good American blood it was shed that humble people might come here and wax wealthy in the freedom the boys of the torn shoes and the torn and bleeding feet won for them—wax wealthy and breed descendants to go abroad and scatter the wealth and explain about America not being a fit place for a gentleman to live in.

And this is rather queer, too, in a way, for the man who led the boys on this blood trail march over the snow has been generally regarded as about the highest type of gentleman the world has ever known. And he always thought America was good enough to live in—to live in and to die for, so far as that is concerned. So did the boys who were out of the trenches by Christmas at his command and who left their trail of blood up the west bank of the Delaware and down the east bank on that awful snowing, sleeting, hailing, icy night that they might make their early Christmas morning call on the folks who were not expecting them.

But that was a good while ago—139 years ago this coming Christmas, to be exact. It was one of the memorable Christmas visits of history, that one of December 25, 1776. Neither poor old Rahl, nor Knyphausen nor any other of the German commanders nor any of the German soldiers under them knew that company was coming until the boys from the trenches were right among them—"in their midst," in a way of speaking.

Stirring days, those, when G. Washington led his ragged Continentals across the Delaware and down to Trenton to make that "rough house" Christmas call. A successful call it was, too, netting a bag of over a thousand Hessian prisoners, and among them seventeen officers, to show for that particular "out of the trenches by Christmas" expedition.

"Minister Without a Portfolio."

We rescue from the obscurity of an official document bearing the imprint of the Bureau of Standards the subjoined suggestion with respect of the future of the City Chamberlain:

"It may, however, be thought advisable to retain the present position at the present salary to provide for the performance of the duties of a minister without portfolio or administrative assistant to the Mayor unless provision for this position is made elsewhere."

The City Chamberlain draws $12,000 a year; the present incumbent has proved the truth of his boast that he is a useless job holder. His salary is within $3,000 of that paid to the Mayor, the Comptroller and the Counsel to the Corporation; the City Superintendent of Schools is paid $2,000 a year less than the Chamberlain, and such inconsequential officials as the Fire Commissioner, the Police Commissioner, the Health Commissioner, at $7,500 a year each, and the General Medical Superintendent of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, at $6,000, cannot begin to compete with him in the matter of compensation.

Now it is proposed to absolve him from even the nominal tasks performed under his supervision and under the highfalutin title of "minister without a portfolio" transfer him to the vague precincts of the Mayor's good will and political judgment; and this is proposed immediately after the salaries of a large number of inferior clerks, who, if they did not earn all that was paid to them, at least were entitled to most of it, have been radically reduced!

What would have been said if the crude political operators who follow Charles F. Murphy had suggested such a waste of city money as here is contemplated?

Music for the Season.

Those persons, and there is a goodly number of them, to whom a canary bird is as indispensable a factor as the solution of the Christmas gift problem as handkerchiefs and neckties are to some of their less imaginative fellows and who have grieved over this season's scant supply and high prices will welcome heartily the 13,500 yellow singers that came into this port Saturday on the Noordam. May this town never be less agreeably invaded than by them!

A canary swinging in a sunny window and chirping cheerily or flooding the room with song while wintry winds whistle outside is a pretty reminder of the Christmas spirit long after the holidays are past. Brooklyn households in particular, we believe, used to be as incomplete, as deficient in the genius loci, without a bird as they would have been without the rubber plant of the town's legend.

The caged songster seems a peculiarly appropriate gift for women in lonely enjoyment of "economic freedom." There are school teachers, some confirmed in spinsterhood, others hoping, who would derive constant pleasure from such companionship. If there were a Dickens among our novelists—who reject with scorn that does them little credit the homely human nature of which Boz made capital—he would endear himself to readers weary of too highly seasoned literary diet, with a chapter of old maid domesticity, a crooning kettle, a purring cat and a canary.

And, by the way, what has become of the troupes of trained canaries we used to hear of?

The Exhaustion That Will End the War.

The French and German medical authorities seem to agree that the percentage of soldiers in the base hospitals who die is small and that comparatively few are discharged physically incapacitated for active service. In an extract from a report made recently by Dr. Jacques Bertillon, director of medical statistics of the French army, the ill and wounded are not separated, and it is said that only eighteen in a thousand have died this year as compared with fifty-three last year. The improvement is due to better organization more than to the lesson of experience.

A German report deals with the wounded only. In every hundred 89.5 are discharged fit for service, 8.8 are disabled or get leave of absence (indefinite probably) and 1.7 per cent. die. One would like to know what the facts are with regard to the sick: how many do not recover and how many are found to be unfit for service? The Germans also report a marked general improvement in hospital treatment.

While a satisfactory comparison cannot be made between French and German hospital efficiency, since the Berlin statement deals exclusively with wounded, it is evident that the percentage of soldiers who are able to return to the front must be large in both armies. The same story could be told, no doubt, of the British, Belgian, Italian and Austrian armies, and the physique of the Russian soldier is so good that in spite of less skilful medical attention a large majority of the wounded who reach the base hospitals must be able to resume their places in the ranks. Of course such statistics leave the question of percentages at the field hospitals unanswered. Many of the desperately wounded do not live long enough to be treated at the base hospitals.

The opinion that the war will be one of exhaustion, victory resting with the side that can organize the largest armies and maintain them in the field, is generally held. But exhaustion will hardly be a question of men if 80 per cent. or more of the wounded are regularly restored to the colors. They will go back as veterans, to stiffen new drafts in the line. The war might go on indefinitely if only combatants were needed. Apparently the exhaustion that will end the war is one of funds to carry it on, to equip troops and feed them, to pay for shells and cartridges.

The Futile Dardanelles Campaign.

It may be supposed that the decision of the British Government to withdraw all the troops from the Suvla and Anzac districts of the Gallipoli peninsula—the disembarkation has been effected with small loss—was taken upon the advice of Lord Kitchener, who looked over the ground in the end of November and spent two hours in conference with General W. R. Birdwood, the local commander.

The incident marks the end of the Dardanelles campaign, for the brigades intrenched at Sedd-ul-Bahr in the toe of the peninsula have not gained a foot of ground for months. Nothing is said about withdrawing them, but they could be better employed elsewhere. It would seem to be simply a question of getting them away with a minimum of casualties under cover of the guns of the fleet.

Whether the troops withdrawn are to be ferried across to Salonica or be diverted to Egypt is a matter of speculation, as the Government refuses to make a statement. But since the defence of the allied positions about Salonica is the urgent emergency and the assembling of a large army in Macedonia would impress Rumania as well as Greece, it is a fair presumption that Salonica is the destination of General Birdwood's force.

At least the Colonel might have waited until the festivities coincident with the Christmas holidays of 1915 were over.

The man who attempts to shelter himself beneath two flags is certain to lose the protection of both.

A Hindu professor is authority for the statement that plants become tired if in uncongenial company and droop with weariness. As an example, the shrinking violet, instead of being modest and shy, is really bored to death.

If the papers for the next five years restricted mention of intercollegiate athletics to the limits allowed for intercollegiate debating, at the end of that time there would be no athletic problem worth public discussion.—*Dr. Albion W. Small of the University of Chicago.*

At the risk of uncovering a hideous scandal, may we ask for an investigation of the report that intercollegiate debaters frequently receive free board for spouting in vacation time at summer hotels?

Secretary Garrison cannot return an affirmative answer to the request of the American Defence Society that he set aside the order forbidding army officers to discuss preparedness for publication. It is a time honored rule and has worked well. The publication of the views of army officers could not be regulated; a Lieutenant would have as good a right to speak and write as a Major-General. The country would be inundated with professional opinions. Discipline would suffer. Army officers are carried on the rolls for the purpose of attending strictly to the performance of their duties as military men. They are concerned solely with preparing troops for the emergency of war. At the same time they may be called upon in an official way for advice about the improvement of the army.

The General Staff often makes reports which are spread on the records of Congress or published by the authority of the Secretary of War. Only a few days ago the War College division's study of the military needs of the country appeared in the newspapers. Nothing could be more authoritative. But that is a very different thing from throwing down the bars and permitting several thousand officers on the active and retired lists to talk as much as they please and as often as they please about the expansion, reorganization and management of the army in peace and war.

Is not the Hon. Bill Flinn of Pittsburg confusing himself with the Colonel when he says "The rule of the sea applies to me. I must be the last man to leave the Progressive ship"?

Now that Villa has announced his acceptance of a lecture offer the Chautauqua world eagerly awaits the news that he has "doubled up" with another eminent artist. Is there no impresario enterprising enough to bring together on one stage the headliners Bill and Vill?

According to an official statement issued in Berlin "a part" of the German fleet cruised in the North Sea recently without seeing any British warships. It is no doubt true, but has no particular significance. What the British navy is waiting for is the whole and not "a part" of the German fleet.

Britishers generally regard Germany's much advertised Egyptian campaign as mostly, though not entirely, a bluff.—*Despatch from London.*

Uncensored etherial messages from Berlin record a curious coincidence. Teutons generally regard Britain's much advertised "drives" as mostly, though not entirely, bluffs.

Congressman Bailey of Pennsylvania is denouncing what he calls "the poison of preparedness." The Belgians and Chinese couldn't comprehend his point of view.

Rubber Nerve Protectors for Hotel Doors.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* I would suggest that hotel proprietors have their room doors tipped or shod with rubber. From a long experience of sleeping in hotels I have come to the conclusion that the average mortal thinks a door was made to be banged, especially late at night.

Sursaut.

New York, December 18.

Inconsistent Old Knickerbocker.

Knicker—How does New York spend its money?

Bocker—In putting rinks on roofs and cleaning them off the streets.

WAR FINANCE.

Which Side Is Going Bankrupt First in the Great Conflict?

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* A few days ago you published a letter from Mr. Umsted, which was highly illuminating and in my opinion a valuable contribution to one of the burning questions of the day, international finance. The subject per se is extremely interesting and deserves a place in any publication, as it is very little understood, hence a discussion of any phase of this topic can only benefit the intelligent reader.

This country has now the opportunity of usurping a great deal of the financial power of the Old World, but it can only do so if our people are able to correlate and coordinate the demands and requirements of foreign countries to our own conditions and to carry out conclusions reached by intelligent reasoning in a practical way. This is my excuse for taking up your valuable space.

There is not a single argument in Mr. Umsted's article that is not based upon truth, and it is sound reasoning. He has sensed actual conditions, apparently from an unbiassed standpoint. I do not know the gentleman personally, hence I cannot say whether he is pro-German or the contrary, but that has absolutely nothing to do with the subject. His article is a true description of financial conditions at the present time.

I knew there would soon be an answer, and it appeared in The Sun of December 18, and was written by a Mr. R. J. Oberfohren, who is pro-German undoubtedly, and German-like tries to obscure the issue by means of casuistry, sophistry and all other tricks of the argumentative kind. He starts in with a positive statement that the English Government had confiscated the gold supply of the Belgian National Bank. I know that this supply is still intact, and undoubtedly the other supplies he refers to are also intact. He calls into question the statement of the British Chancellor that the private banks are holding $551,000,000 in gold. I know one particular bank that holds $40,000,000 in gold, and there are a great many private banks in London. All banks in England, with the exception of the Bank of England, are called private banks, and the use of the word "private" is a specimen of Mr. Oberfohren's casuistry.

The silver in the Bank of England and the silver in the Bank of France is a negligible quantity, and is so small in comparison to the gold holdings that in the terms of the chemist it would be called only a trace.

The entire argument loses its force by its misstatements, hence it is useless to go further into the matter. We now come to Mr. Oberfohren's statement of the German side of the case, and here all is sunshine and arrogance. But "Papier ist geduldig." Comparison means nothing, but that is the leading fault of the German casuist. I know Dr. Helfferich, the president of the German Reichsbank, personally, and many a talk have I had with him on world finance. I know how his heart is bleeding when for policy's sake he is obliged to make statements that he knows are not true. Talking to a prominent German banker a few days ago, he said to me: "I know we are bankrupt, but I only hope that the Allies will be declared bankrupt a few weeks before we are, then we will have the advantage."

The German people are a wonderful people: to know them in their own country and in their home surroundings is to love them. I was educated in Germany, and in my heart I have a love for German Kultur as exemplified by its scientists, its poets and its masses, but the Kultur of the Kaiser, the Kultur of Von Tirpitz and the Kultur of the Goose Step—Heaven forfend. Veritas.

New York, December 20.

The African Gold Pile.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* I notice in The Sun of December 15 a communication from Brother Umsted, in which he says that Britain's possessions turn up from the earth $280,000,000 a year in gold.

His inference is that this gold is available to Britain for her purchases in America. The fact is that none of the gold mined in Africa since the war began has been shipped from that continent through fear of capture.

It is piled up in the Union of South Africa banks, and the Bank of England draws notes against it, some of which are accepted as wages by the miners. This is done to keep the mines in operation.

Nor have France and Russia any foreign supply of mined gold to draw upon.

There is, therefore, no point to the Umsted communication. As for bank statements, they are like the juggler's deck of cards. They do not always show the amount of gold actually on hand unpledged. F. E. Cooper.

New York, December 20.

LAMENT OF THE FISHERMEN.

An Open Letter to Certain Heedless Administrators.

To Mayor John Purroy Mitchel and R. A. C. Smith, Commissioner of Docks and Ferries.

Gentlemen: The recreation pier at Fiftieth street has been closed to anglers.

Fishing is prohibited to our West Side Izaak Waltons.

Tommies are bitin' and the pier is closed to our sterling gentle professors of the angling art.

Will Dr. Brisben of the Anglers Association tolerate this?

Did we not to-day get at Dreamland an appropriation for a pier?

Does Mayor Mitchel give with one hand and withdraw with the other?

Fish and fishing furnish the sole inexpensive recreation of our West Side German and Irish.

We catch our food for brain and brawn in the teeming waters of the Hudson.

Are our devotees of this most innocent contemplative art to be robbed by this administration, neutral in name, so that munitions of war may be shipped to murder our brothers in the trenches?

Our Irish bartender drew up for a German Brockhagen's Bierhalle, headquarters of the Eleventh Avenue Track Removal Association, the Forty-seventh Street Villagers, the following notice:

"We are neutral. Any one who can't say a good word for the Kaiser can get out."

We are beginning to feel that this administration is averse to giving us our rights.

Our right to our waterfront for food fishing is inalienable, not to be New York Centralized.

A word to the wise is sufficient, says the Eleventh Avenue Barber and Fisherman. E. H. Ludwig.

New York, December 20.

Christmas Candy's Great Day.

Harrisburg correspondence Philadelphia Press.

A marriage license was issued to Russel Christmas Candy, an engineer of Tyrone, and Clara Ethel Elder of Tyrone. Candy was born on Christmas, hence his name, and will be married on that day.

TO PEACE THEORISTS.

A Property Owner Calls for Their Substitute for Preparedness.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* Will some sincere exponent of the doctrine of unpreparedness tell us exactly what his programme of peace includes? What protection does he propose to give our homes and families and places of business? After thirty years of work I have acquired a modest property, where unmolested I may manage to avoid becoming an inmate of the county farm. But should an army of invasion land upon our beach, three miles away, I would have to take to the tall timber, and if I and my family escaped with our lives we would become refugees, deprived of the means of making a living in our old age.

What do the disciples of unpreparedness offer in place of big guns, submarines, plenty of ammunition and men trained to the hour in their most potent uses? Something more than idle curiosity prompts this inquiry. In the county of Suffolk alone 75,000 men, women and children and

I Wanta Kno.

Bellport, December 18.

A Plea for Unpreparedness.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* There have been reasons given for this war, the most terrific and terrible in the world's history. But the cause was preparedness. Preparedness on the part of one nation thorough and long continued led to fear. Fear drove other nations into alliances and into preparedness. Preparedness of rival groups of nations led to a condition that can only be described as explosive. This explosive condition led to a frame of mind that resembled hysteria and panic, so that when one nation mobilized its forces another nation not only mobilized its troops, and not only began the invasion of a neutral country on its way to attack a rival, but asked the world to believe that that overt act of aggression was purely defensive. The real cause of the war was preparedness for peace, preparedness against war, preparedness for defence, whichever phrase you like best, but always preparedness for war.

If a referendum were taken in Germany and in England to-day, the two best prepared nations, the former on the land, the latter on the sea, there would be an agreement on the part of the people of those countries that there must be no repetition of the conditions which led to this war. They might be led astray by national feeling to say that this repetition can only be prevented by subduing the adversary.

This would mean that the subdued national group must be kept in subjection by force of arms, and this would lead to more and prolonged preparedness, which was the cause of this war and which would inevitably lead to recurrence of it. Germany has subjugated Belgium, Poland and Serbia. England has command of the sea and has subjugated most of Germany's oversea possessions. To recover either, the war must be carried to even more dreadful loss of life and property. To compromise or even to propose compromise is regarded as weakness if not folly.

The neutral nations, especially the leading neutral nation, the United States, are faced with the alternative of preparedness or of proposing a plan which will prevent a repetition of this condition of preparedness that led to the great war. The people of the United States seem at present to have chosen the alternative of preparedness rather than to be willing to consider as feasible a plan for preventing war.

No Government of any neutral nation seems to be willing officially to propose the real remedy for the disease. One individual, Henry Ford, a maker of automobiles, has taken his courage in both hands and as an individual is financing a meeting of those who desire to see this war and all war end. Mr. Ford is covered with ridicule, but he is the only man who has up to the present time shown a willingness to sacrifice anything to bring about peace. He is said to be seeking advertisement. Why, he could buy all the advertisement at a much smaller expense. He is said to have no plan. Who knows that the conference he is calling will not propose a perfectly feasible plan? That is one of the objects of the conference. He is said to have a "big head," to be "crazy," &c. Whatever disease Mr. Henry Ford has, it should remind us of the whiskey General Grant was said to drink when he was winning victories. President Lincoln, when complaint was made about Grant's drinking whiskey, said that he would like to send a barrel of it to his other Generals who did not win victories.

Lewis Stockton.

Buffalo, December 18.

PHILIP NOLAN.

Evidences That the Lesson of His Life Is Compelling Attention.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* I want to congratulate you upon your wise choice in placing as your first editorial article "Philip Nolan."

Let us take the hint from you and make some effort to influence, if only in a small way, our boys and girls to be true to the country under whose protection their homes are made for them.

Some weeks ago, thinking these days especially appropriate for the lesson taught by the life of Philip Nolan, I read "The Man Without a Country" to my young nephew. Your article has decided me to send a number of copies of this book to a neighborhood house, of which I am president, with the request that every club leader shall read it to his or her club of boys and girls before the New Year has come.

F. G. Benjamin.

New York, December 19.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* Permit me to express my very hearty commendation of your editorial article "Philip Nolan" in The Sun of December 19. I sincerely hope your suggestion of a general rereading of that classic of American patriotism will lead many people to hunt it out and ponder well in these days of bifurcated allegiance, sneaking traitors and spies the stirring lesson it teaches. Indeed, I am quite sure many people have been moved by recent developments to a reperusal of the document, just as I have been.

As significant of what folks are thinking about nowadays, I may mention the fact that a few weeks ago a certain business concern here in New Jersey reproduced "The Man Without a Country" in its entirety and sent it broadcast without comment as an addendum to its regular advertising circulars. That concern gets my business. H. C. W.

Asbury Park, N. J., December 19.

This Year's Toys.

The heart of dear old Santa Claus is heavy
in his breast,
As he packs his bags with Christmas
gifts for little girls and boys;
He turns his eyes in sorrow to the East
and to the West,
Then gazes sadly, tearfully, at this year's
kind of toys.

There are no little dollies with dresses
gay and bright,
The costume of a Red Cross nurse is
what the kiddies crave;
And tin and wooden soldiers just ready
for a fight
Are standing in battalions and looking
very brave.

It's hard upon St. Nicholas, who has a
kindly heart,
To thrust aside the type of toys that
stood for peace on earth;
But to give the children what they want
has always been his part,
And so he's making little guns to celebrate Christ's birth.

F. Jones.

BOROUGH HOME RULE.

President Marks of Manhattan Exposes His Building Inspection Plan.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* It is well that public attention is again being called to the need of building inspection reform. The present waste and confusion are intolerable to tenants as well as landlords.

What is the practical way to end this abuse? Some may declaim excitedly and dramatically against borough divisions in our city government. This is really a waste of time and effort. The unit of the great city of New York is too large and its physical conditions are too varied to permit of a single neighborhood sentiment. Our city of five or six million people, destined to grow to eight or ten millions, cannot, I believe, be successfully represented without local borough subdivision. The masses of the people of the various boroughs insist upon local autonomy in many physical matters which come close to their daily life, such as control over public works and the construction and safety of buildings.

Building conditions in the various boroughs vary so materially as to make each a distinctly local problem. For example, in Manhattan almost every new building operation is preceded by the destruction of old buildings. This necessitates shoring and underpinning on a scale not required in other boroughs, where new buildings are usually constructed on lots hitherto vacant. Also in Manhattan it is almost the rule to excavate two or more stories deep underground, thus encountering unique and interesting situations.

The boroughs will not permit the destruction of their autonomy in the building bureau. If these were taken away only the single Department of Public Works would remain under the jurisdiction of the borough. It requires no prophet to foresee overwhelming defeat in the Legislature of any such attempt. The proper cry of "Home Rule for Cities" is echoed in boroughs which themselves are the size of the larger cities. I do not see how our representatives could be true to their trust without recognizing the will of their constituents so clearly expressed.

At a conference of citizens which I called a few weeks ago I proposed a practical plan for ending the present deadlock between friends and opponents of centralization of building inspections. Fire Commissioner Adamson has recently made a similar suggestion to the Mayor.

My proposition is to centralize in each borough building bureau all inspection and regulation of buildings of every kind during construction and alteration, and thereafter to centralize all inspection and regulation of buildings of every kind over the use or the "housekeeping" functions in one department under the Mayor. During one period, that of construction, the borough will control, and thereafter by clean cut distinction a city function will be performed.

I believe that after fair discussion this plan will be found to meet the present situation and absolutely eliminate duplication and conflict.

This plan preserves both proper neighborhood sentiment and borough autonomy, and at the same time does not interfere with the principle of city control over license functions.

Marcus M. Marks,
President Borough of Manhattan.

Manhattan, December 20.

BOOMS AND THE BOOMERS.

The Season Now Open for the Hunting of the Favorite Son.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* In these days when so much talk is made regarding a stronger navy, and the importance of legislation more helpful to business men and wage earners, we people up here in the neck of the woods believe Senator Weeks is a logical man to direct the settlement of these important questions.

Massachusetts is not alone in believing that the Republican party will come to New England for a Presidential candidate. The day has been when a small town in this State would furnish two Presidents. It is time for one more—especially in this international crisis.

Senator Weeks, of all the candidates mentioned, is the most capable, by reason of his experience, in passing upon naval questions. He is a graduate of the Naval Academy. He was for years commander of the Massachusetts Naval Brigade. He was a volunteer naval officer in the war with Spain. When Wilson landed troops at Vera Cruz and it looked for a time as though we were to have a "big war" with Mexico instead of a "little war," Weeks was one of the first men to volunteer for service at the front. His friends believe these are among the striking reasons for his nomination which induce support for him outside of New England.

Signs multiply that the nominee of the convention will be a real Republican, in fact as well as in name; that he is likely to be under 60 years of age; that he will be a thorough believer in the Republican tariff principles, in the upbuilding of an American merchant marine; that he will be capable of leading and directing his party; also that he has not been an exponent of peace or a little navy—most unpopular doctrines, I believe, with American people having red blood in their veins.

Senator Weeks completely fills the bill as a Republican candidate for President. His record in Congress shows his calibre and strength. The principles which he has put forward in public life have been those upon which the character, strength and material success of the United States have been developed. He stands for deeds, not words.

Broad and tolerant, he would be the typical candidate.

Edwin W. Ingalls.

Boston, December 20.

The Psychology of Dove Fights.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* Governments are largely theoretical and are too often the victims of theorists. Individuals are merely human beings. Thus, pacifists at strife over the stopping of strife are still pacifists. States at strife over questions that may involve their national existence are unholy blood letters who must be coaxed from the trenches by a mixed chorus of foreign unperspectivists twittering an ironical "Merry Christmas, peace be on earth!" So here is a distinction to be duly considered before giving way to mirth over the news of the ways and means bickerings on board the ocean going dovecote. Squire.

New York, December 20.

Passing Events in Oklahoma.

From the Oklahoman.

Sun Maker and his wife, Apache Woman, and his stepdaughter, Parted, near Geary come over to sign the deed of Seven Road allotment that Apache Woman and Parted sold October 15.

Mary Washee is going down to Darlington Agency on business. She has eighty acres near Calumet of Clyde Bear Robe allotment her deceased husband.

White Buffalo, old Arapaho Indian, deeded 80 acres of Bad Woman allotment to his grandson, Philip Judson Gun, son of Gun and Singing Otter.

Number of Cheyennes are camping with Bad Teeth on Boggy Creek near Bessie. Bad Teeth bought beef from some Pale Face and this camp is having lots of beef to eat. Two Crows is Chief Priest of this camp, he tells war stories of night to the young Indians.

Crooked Woman wife of Little Man Spring and Clara Sioux wife of Red Leggins, from Clinton went to Tongue River Agency Montana to visit.

In *Scribner's Monthly* for January E. H. Sothern begins his reminiscences, John Galsworthy comments on the war, R. W. Neeser describes submarines and Mary Synon tells of Canada's war spirit. There are four short stories with a serial by Jesse L. Williams, five poems and two colored pictures by H. C. Christy.

PRESIDENT'S BRIDE APPEARS ONLY ONCE

Rigid Seclusion Broken by Long Motor Ride With Mr. Wilson.

MOVIE MEN AGAIN FAIL

Hot Springs, Va., Dec. 20.—Indications have increased that the President and Mrs. Wilson intend to avoid as much publicity as possible during their honeymoon. They emerged from their apartments but once to-day, when they took a two hour ride along quiet mountain roads.

Word was given quietly to the motion picture men who have been hoping that the President would relent from his refusal to be filmed that he had no such intentions. With the President and his bride on their motor trip went three secret service men. One of these rode with the President's driver and the others were in a machine which trailed close behind.

Mrs. Wilson wore the black velvet costume she had on when she arrived yesterday and an American Beauty rose nestled in the black fur at her neck. The President had on a dark gray overcoat and a soft felt hat and carried a fur rug over his arm, which he tucked carefully around his bride.

Stops were made at Warm Springs and Alum Springs, but these were just pauses. When Mr. and Mrs. Wilson returned they went to their section of the hotel immediately. They have taken no part in the social life of the hotel.

All the morning was spent by the President and his bride in answering messages of congratulation which have been received. Many of these have been from the heads of foreign nations, but because of the delicate conditions of the foreign affairs a list of those who have sent their felicitations will not be made public. It is known that the heads of some of the belligerents in the European war have not as yet forwarded their congratulations.

The day was enlivened when H. M. McClintic, general storekeeper, bank director, lawyer and by suffrage of the sovereign voters of Bath county a justice of the peace and the Commonwealth's ranking Magistrate, gave out a statement of welcome to the President and his bride.

As Justice McClintic phrased it, "the county is proud of its honors, but determined to be modest about them." And why not? he pointed out, for this very mountain nook also has been the shelter of Robert E. Lee, who was considered quite a man in Virginia, and another somewhat well known Democratic President, Thomas Jefferson. The latter, so certain ancient books show, once bought a bottle of wine here for 50 cents. But times have changed since Jefferson died.

In the midst of hymeneal joy there is strife. From among the blackamoor servitors of the house three waiters—Zeek Blackstone, William Edward Grey and William D. Washington—have been chosen to attend the President, under the baton of Nathaniel Barry, the head waiter.

The trouble arises because these servitors cannot remain sufficiently unaware of the distinction conferred on them. Other waiters complain that these servitors have ceased speaking to them and that they have adopted a wholly undemocratic attitude.

The President's mail and telegrams are being vised with unusual care to make sure that no unpleasant messages from cranks will reach him. There is also an agreement that the official business to reach the President shall be kept at a minimum. Both at the White House and here there have been orders that only papers of urgent importance shall be sent to him.

Mrs. George Gunton, who is a relative of the bride's family, has sent the President and Mrs. Wilson an invitation to afternoon tea Thursday at Douglas Lodge, her place near here.

WILSON NOMINEE HELD UP

Senate Blocks Plan to Name Rublee for Trade Board.

Washington, Dec. 20.—There is question whether George Rublee will be confirmed as a member of the Federal Trade Commission, the case having been before the Senate Committee on Commerce, to which it was committed a few days ago. The nomination came over from the last Congress.

In their haste some of the Administration Senators polled the committee and brought the nomination before the Senate on a favorable report without formality of a committee meeting.

Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire in an executive session pointed out that this was "irregular," that he personally had called attention to the fact that the law had not been complied with by the President in appointing Rublee. The Senator said the act provided for no more than three members of the same political party in the commission.

Senator Gallinger charged that Rublee is a Democrat and supported President Wilson, although he was nominally a Progressive. Senator Gallinger intimated there had been a plain violation of the rule of Senatorial courtesy in bringing out the nomination in the way it had come and that if this report were to stand it would be the end of Senatorial courtesy in the Senate as far as he, Gallinger, was concerned.

Senator O'Gorman expressed the view that Mr. Gallinger was being used by Senator Reed of Missouri, who always fought Rublee, joined by Senator O'Gorman and other Democrats who demand that Rublee's nomination be committed. There is a belief among the Senate that a majority of the Democrats are opposed to him and that his slim chances of getting through the Senate was formerly a law partner of ex-Senator Spooner.

MAY NAME DELEHANTY JUDGE

Whitman Said to Favor Former Aid for Swann's Place.

Gov. Whitman's return to Albany without making public the name of the man he has decided upon for appointment to succeed Judge Swann, who retires from the Court of General Sessions on January 1 to become District Attorney, has not bridled the tongues of the political gossips to fill the place.

It is said that the Governor's choice will fall to James A. Delehanty, a Democrat, who was one of Mr. Whitman's chief aids as District Attorney. The Governor is expected to announce the designation of Mr. Delehanty as a strictly personal choice, and it is said that protests have already been uttered with him. There has been talk for a long time right along that a Democrat should take Judge Swann's place, though, during the Democratic organization, it was stated that it