The Sun.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 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 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	75
FOREIGN RATES.	
DAILY, Per Month	1 25
SUNDAY, Per Month	05
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	1 90
THE EVENING SUN, Per Month	25
THE EVENING SUN, Per Year	2 00
THE EVENING SUN (Foreign), Per Mo.	1 00

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. Lukton, 150 Nassau street.

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

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Secretary Daniels's Suppression.

In defence of the suppression by Secretary DANIELS of the report on America's naval needs compiled by Admiral DEWEY and his associates it is urged that the constructive programme emanating from their trained minds is impracticable, too expensive and based on a wrong conception of the task our marine defence should undertake. Only from the civilian politicians of the department, it is contended by the Secretary's partisans, can a wise and workable scheme of expansion be extracted.

That the professional advisers of the nation should advocate the maximum establishment in their judgment necessary is to be expected; and on what ground can the withholding from the public of their deliberate recommendations be justified? It is their duty and obligation to make known the necessities of their service. If their intelligent prevision is to be treated with contempt, and their reports are to be made merely for pigeonholing, the pretence of respect for informed guidance should be abandoned, and the management of technical affairs frankly consigned to the mercy of political expediency.

Lacking the General Board's report, the public might well have believed that the plan sponsored by Secretary DANIELS would meet the maximum needs of the nation, as set forth by its most trusted counsellors. To-day it knows that this scheme records only the presumption of JOSEPHUS DANIELS with respect of the present interest and aims of the country. It embodies the politician's craft, not the naval authority's discernment; and if the nation must be ruled by the first, it at least should have the educational opportunity of the second.

Secretary DANIELS erecting himself into a final judge of what the country shall know and shall not know discloses in himself the guile of the job hunter and the arrogance of the bureaucrat. He can achieve only one welcome suppression, and the object of that is too dear to his heart to encourage the hope that he will be called on to submit to it.

The Pernicious Type of Pacifist.

O Peace, what sins are committed in thy name! War may be hell, but with all its horrors and diabolical activities, it is, in the larger sense, honest and above board. Battles are waged not by spies but by soldiers. Whatever may be said against war it cannot be called a state in which success can be attained by what is sneaking, mean or petty. The characteristic features of war are hideous but sublime, demanding of mankind the display of its highest qualities, self-sacrifice, courage, discipline. A man who could go through the ordeals of a military campaign, with the demands it makes upon the individual, and come back from battlefields and hard bivouacs a shifty, tricky, small minded, treacherous creature is not easily to be found.

But how is it with certain types of pacifists who employ methods underhanded to the verge of illegality for the promotion of their cause, a cause toward which every sane man must be well disposed? Peace, universal and permanent, is eminently desirable. It is the goal toward which the race must consciously move or civilization will be forever a mere name, a mockery of what the soul of man seems to have in it that may make the future of the world less hideous than the past. But pacifists who bring discredit upon themselves and their cause through lies, deceptions, plots and unseasonable activities are not pushing mankind on toward the millennium. They are making peace in some ways more despicable than war. Pacifists though they may call themselves, they are armed with weapons that, used in the dark, strike at the nation's very heart. They are inconsistent, but that is the least serious charge of the many that can be brought against them. With the white dove of peace for their emblem they are doing more to-day to make war permanent than all the swashbucklers and fire eaters in the world at large.

There are various types of pacifists. That there are many high minded, clear thinking, lofty souled individuals in this country who wish to put an end to war is unquestionable. With them the patriotic American who holds different views regarding the possibility of putting peace immediately upon a permanent basis can have no quarrel. But the pacifist who works secretly to undermine the strength of his country when practically the whole world is at war, who schemes and conspires and plots to deprive the nation of even the few weapons it could command in an emergency, is too base and contemptible for argument. He needs something more potent than syllogisms. "Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey," that compromises with traitors. There is a certain type of pacifist who is at present playing with fire. He should contemplate the ultimate effect of his conduct.

The Coopers at Washington.

The coopers at Washington are hard at work. Christmas brings no holiday for them. They must be at their labors night and day. The folks back home look to them for diligence and perseverance.

Therefore we shall have a public buildings bill, bestowing Federal post offices on the capitals of sagebrush counties, court houses where no Federal business by any chance is transacted; a river and harbor bill carrying a mere $40,000,000 or $50,000,000 to wet the beds of streams that would otherwise go dry and to deepen harbors no ship's master ever heard of; and a good roads bill of unlimited possibilities to macadam the trails of the virgin forest and concrete the byways of those rural sections that are prolific of votes if not of traffic.

Fortunately, gag rule will not be in effect in the Senate. There is hope that another Burton or Carter will arise to speak for the taxpayer and protest against the looting of the strong box. Freedom of debate has heretofore protected us against political freebooters, and a Senate not shorn of all its traditions may again save us from the willing practitioners of vicarious alms giving.

Americans All.

Washington belongs, until January 7, to the ten or twelve hundreds of delegates attending the Pan-American Scientific Congress; and the United States has planned for them a reception befitting the largest republic as host to her sister republics of the Western hemisphere.

Subdivisions of the congress, discussing anthropology, astronomy, education, economic geology, the public health, conservation, agriculture, international law and other matters of expert knowledge and public import, will fulfil the scientific purpose of the convocation. Many wise and learned things will be said, along with some less wise and learned: The scientists will both learn and teach.

Much good may come of their discussion; but in the broader view it is incidental to the attainment of a greater object than the exchange of methods and experiences in public enterprise: the demonstration of the actual existence of a Pan-American spirit as a force in the practical affairs of the continents that have the Atlantic Ocean at their east.

May the delegates one and all—by no means overlooking the Women's Auxiliary Conference—have a good time, gain knowledge and give it. May the gayer festivities as well as the formal ceremonies equal in every respect their expectations; and, above all, may the congress contribute most substantially to the permanence of an entente cordiale among the American republics, great and small.

Washington surrenders, and will conquer.

Good as Far as It Goes.

Through a resolution unanimously adopted the Federal Reserve Board has served notice that politics must be kept out of the Federal Reserve banks. Part of the resolution reads:

"Persons holding political or public office in the service of the United States * * * cannot consistently with the spirit and underlying principles of the Federal Reserve act serve as directors or officers of Federal Reserve banks."

Excellent! But it is difficult to the point of impossibility for water to rise higher than its source without artificial pressure. The fact that the Federal Reserve Board's resolution was adopted at the suggestion of WILLIAM G. MCADOO does not obscure the other fact that he holds "public office in the service of the United States" and as Secretary of the Treasury sits with his colleague, the Comptroller of the Currency, as a member of the Federal Reserve Board, which is the supreme directorate of the reserve banking system.

There must be no politics in the Federal Reserve system—except at headquarters.

Nosophobia.

The unfamiliar term "nosophobia" is applied by physicians to a mental disorder which is characterized by fear of sickness. Nosophobia prevails in an endemic form at all times and seasons of the year. Like the thief who "sees a policeman behind every bush" the affected individual sees sickness and death everywhere; germs are his bête noir, and from this contingent come the authors of sensational news of dire epidemics that are spreading over the country.

At the present time two scares are engaging attention: typhus fever, stalking in gaunt menace across the Mexican borders, and grip, beckoning in disturbing proximity from Camden, N. J., and from Philadelphia.

Typhus fever is a malignant disease that in former times, when its cause and mode of dissemination were unknown or guessed at, decimated populations and in the Middle Ages swept away whole communities. To-day the light of science has illumined the hitherto obscure disease and with the simplicity always characterizing true scientific research has unerringly revealed a positive unfailing method of terminating the scourge. Witness its marvellous extermination in war and famine stricken Serbia, where at great distance from the source of help American doctors and nurses have brilliantly exemplified the altruistic mission of their country by hastening to this suffering people scientific weapons for conquering typhus.

What reason is there for anxiety, much less fear, from an invasion of our country by this scourge? The United States Public Health Service, whose energy and skill THE SUN has frequently had occasion to commend when bubonic plague or cholera or other disease appeared to menace the country, is alert and able to deal with this foe as it has dealt with those far more malign because more obscure. Apprehension from this Mexican offspring of war and famine is groundless and need not disturb us.

With regard to grip, THE SUN has announced upon the authority of Health Commissioner EMERSON that the disease is not epidemic, if it is at all present, in this city. A curious development of this scare is the interdiction of that long established form of greeting and expression of pleasure and affection, kissing. There is not the slightest evidence that colds are communicated by osculation; indeed the fact that they exist at certain seasons only would contradict such an idea and put it in the category of "Not all discoveries are so."

An Incorrect Version of the Second Note to Austria.

It is plain that the version of the second American note on the destruction of the Ancona furnished to the Berlin press is faulty in that it does not contain the date of the Austrian Admiralty report referred to in it by Secretary LANSING. That report, as is explicitly declared in the note, was transmitted under date of November 15, or nearly three weeks before our first note on this subject was despatched, and it was cited in the original American communication.

The second report of the Austrian Admiralty in no way influenced this Government in the stand it took on the destruction of the Ancona, nor could it have had influence, for the simple reason that it was not in existence when our protest was made. This fact should be made clear, in order that there may be no misconception as to the history of the controversy with Vienna over the case.

Sinister Inventions.

The Kalamazoo jeweller who believes that left handed persons look at things in a left handed manner, and has built a left handed watch for his left handed daughter, has contributed to the disturbance of that mental poise which is essential to the well being of philosophers of the commonplace, without compensation in utilitarian production. The Kalamazoo watch runs backward, yet does not reverse the flight of time; which shows, perhaps, how ingeniously systematized is our management of that intangible medium by which we profess to measure the history of objects existing in space.

Avoiding the morasses of metaphysics, it is to be said that on the face of this watch the order of the numerals and the course of the hands are the opposite of the conventional arrangement. When this timekeeper seems to record quarter to one it is actually, if we calculate correctly, indicating quarter past eleven. It is a test of sheer intellectual power to read the left handed dial. To simple minds it is sinister in every sense.

The old way is best. Since, in untechnical language, the right lobe of the brain governs the left side of the body and the left lobe the right side, in adapting themselves to a right handed world left handed people show extraordinary cerebral fitness and versatility. They have consciously to learn to do what other folks do automatically.

The Kalamazoo horologist, had he subordinated impulse to reflection, would have perceived that in reality no one can be quite so well adjusted to a right handed world as one who is born left handed.

Mexico has had her '60s of civil war and is entering upon her '70s of reconstruction.

A little Brooklyn girl, trying to save her Christmas doll from being run over, jumped in front of an elevated train and was seriously injured. A man on the station platform who tried to help the little girl was hurt. A good deal of trouble for a doll to cause, but it was the child's baby, and she has given a display of the heroism of mother love that removes the incident from the commonplace of accident.

It is to be hoped that Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, the representative of the British press in the Gallipoli campaign, will have his say about it, following the example of his distinguished predecessor WILLIAM HOWARD RUSSELL, who told the shocking truth about British neglect and incompetence in the Crimea. In both fields of warfare brave men were cruelly sacrificed. The painful feature of the futile business in Gallipoli is that many of the British and colonial soldiers were half trained volunteers who exposed themselves more freely than veterans and with a sublime faith in the supports that often failed them when the staff blundered.

No incident of New York life could more convincingly set forth the passing of the Sullivans than the abandonment of the Christmas dinner to their East Side constituents. The gifts of shoes and tobacco were distributed as long as the family was politically potent. This year it is announced that a feast will be given on New Year's Day, but the sophisticated Bowery recognizes in the lapse of an ancient custom the evidence of its approaching end.

The news despatches from Washington inform us that "the Special Caucus Committee, Speaker CLARK, Majority Leader KITCHIN and Representatives SHERLEY, HAY, FITZGERALD, GARNER and STOUT, which considered the advisability of adopting the budget system for national appropriations, has reached the conclusion that the present session had too much important work before it to make the change." As economy in expenditure is the purpose of a budget system, it is plain that the subject is relatively unimportant.

In sacrificing his Christmas holiday and his week end, DAVID LLOYD GEORGE, the British Minister of Munitions, has given to the world convincing evidence of the revolution the war has wrought in England.

If Mr. ROOSEVELT demands withdrawal of his name from the Presidential primary ballot in Michigan, it will be quite a different matter from his protest in Nebraska. In that State it was the Republican petition that bore his name; in Michigan it is on the Progressive list, and refusal to permit it to stay there approaches positive negation. Presidential primaries this year are not what they were four years ago, in the view of Oyster Bay.

Dr. Cook is back—still telling stories.

BOYCOTT THE POWDERED!

Counter Strike Against the Emigrating Suffragettes Begun!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* To inflict punishment upon benighted New York we are told that the suffragists, who are still with us, intend to pack up their goods and move West where women are permitted to vote, thereby depriving New York of a certain proportion of just taxes. Fully to exemplify their philosophy that "taxation without representation is tyranny" they purpose becoming citizens of States having the "newer freedom."

All sorts of dire threats were made last fall by the ladies if the men did not enfranchise them, but this latest threat is the silliest of all. Not one of these ladies would give up Broadway or Fifth avenue for all the so-called beauties of the Western country with its unsophisticated freedom and ugly mountains, stubbled prairies and unhistorical rocks. They should remember, if they want to strike until they shall have obtained the so-called "equality of citizenship," that striking is a game at which two can play.

Beginning with the New Year I have determined upon one resolution: I am going on strike. I have firmly resolved to refuse to dance hereafter with any girl who powders her nose and her cheeks. During the dying year I have had the silk lapels of two evening dress coats ruined by my dancing partners who seem to take keen delight in rubbing their noses and burying their cheeks upon my manly bosom. It's a beastly shame!

Stop them? I have tried it and failed. My tailor finds it utterly impossible to clean the coats by the ordinary process of cleaning, and he is of the opinion that the powders or pastes girls use nowadays contain chemicals highly injurious to black silk lapels.

It may be hard to detect the girls who continually daub their faces with powder, but I shall carry, if needs be, a strong reading glass, which I will use to protect myself and my clothes.

Now suppose all the men who go to dances would join me in such a strike. Would not the ladies capitulate? Would not they resolve to stop using powder and paste, if the using of powder meant their being numbered among the "wallflowers" at a dance? I think it would. Come, then, fellow men, and join me in such a strike! Let the lady "suffs" refuse to become mothers as they have threatened, let them refuse to sit at the same table where "mere man" rules. Let them refuse to pay taxes. Let them refuse to have care of their children. Let them move West. We men can retaliate.

Oh, my fellows, let us by all means protect our evening dress coats.

R. RALPH DONALD.
NEWARK, N. J., December 25.

DEADLY COURT ROOMS.

A London Precedent for the Conditions in General Sessions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If the Judge presiding at the Old Bailey sessions in April, 1750, during the trial of a certain Mr. Clark, had acted with the same good judgment as shown by Judge Malone in General Sessions in this city the other day, when he abruptly terminated all proceedings in his court after the death of three of the jurors, many lives would have been saved, for Sir Michael Foster in his "Reports of Crown Cases" about that period relates as to this Clark trial that many people were seized with a fever of the malignant kind and that few who were so seized recovered. He says:

"The persons of chief note who were in the court room at the time and died were Sir Samuel Pennant, Lord Mayor for that year; Sir Thomas Abney, one of the Justices of Common Pleas; Charles Clark, esquire, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and Sir Daniel Lambert, one of the Aldermen of London; of less note, a gentleman of the bar, two or three students, one of the under sheriffs, an officer of Lord Chief Justice Lee who attended his lordship in court at the time, several of the jury on the Middlesex side, and about forty other persons whom business or curiosity had brought thither."

The eminent author's reflection is that "if the points of cleanliness and free air had been greatly neglected, the putrid effluvia which the prisoners bring with them in their cloaths might have produced the fatal effects."

JOHN FLEMING.
JAMAICA, December 25.

MR. O'GORMAN'S SLIP.

An Inquiry as to the Chinaification of America.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Senator O'Gorman is quoted in the newspapers as having said: "We have the richest country in the world and heretofore have done less toward protecting American life and treasure than any other country in the world except China."

What has China ever done to protect American life and treasure, to say nothing of "any other country's" contribution in that direction? J. S. A.
NEW YORK, December 25.

In Exile.

From the Boston Transcript.

I know the stars are shining there as here
In this great city where the millions dwell;
But dusk brings not the starry miracle
That made the home vale twilights ever dear.
Among the marble cliffs that, white and sheer,
Rise dimly through the eve, my thoughts compel
My dreams backward to turn where evenings quell
The spirit's stress, where peace is deep and near.
Here worthy goals await the questing feet;
Here friendship is; here love and laughter are;
Here chains are broken that souls may be free;
But still I cannot help but think how sweet
The meadow winds arise, how clear and far
The old bells call—and home my heart would be! ARTHUR WALLACE PEACH.

PEACE ON EARTH.

Programme for Establishment of Good Will Among the Nations.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Christmas comes and Christmas goes. Where is the peace on earth and where is the good will to all men? Peace is a farce, good will a falsity, and our children are subconsciously educated to believe that religion is not a reality to inspire and direct human conduct.

The fault lies not with Christianity nor with Judaism, the mother faith that climaxes human happiness with peace and whose mandate from Moses is "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Leviticus xix.) The fault lies in the fact that the teachings of religion are not transmuted into human conduct by its followers. Can we prepare the way for peace on earth and good will to all men?

Not by proposing peace to the warring nations. Any approach to them would be futile, would be met with a sharp refusal and a blunt rebuff. The war must be fought to a finish, for the leaders are very proud and are war drunk. It is sad to have to admit this, but why hide the truth?

We can "prepare the way" by establishing a bureau in every capital to educate public opinion against war and in favor of arbitration in these ways:

By interesting the clergy, the press, the educational institutions, chambers of commerce, workingmen's organizations, women's societies, &c., in each country in such movement.

By using pulpit, newspaper, forum, platform and stage to impress on public opinion the crime, cost and curse of war, its horror and its injustice where might makes right.

By instituting a peace week once a year when throughout the whole country every pulpit and schoolhouse or college hall, every theatre and platform shall present the real meaning of war with its terrors, ruin and legacies of hate and revenge. Much can be done by the processions of women, and by flooding the country with leaflets.

By influencing voters to vote only for those legislative candidates who will pledge themselves for arbitration instead of war; who will work to establish and support an international court of arbitration, who will impeach any Cabinet that declares war before the offices of such court have been invoked, save when home land is actually invaded.

By banding leading clergy, editors, bankers, judges, leaders of trade unions in a league of honor to insist on arbitration except in face of actual invasion, and if need be to lynch king or Cabinet that refuses. Perhaps the world needs another object lesson of a Charles at the block or a Louis on the guillotine. Certain it is the world does need to take a step forward from the ideal of Lincoln fifty years ago, government of the people by the people and for the people, to the ideal of government of the peoples of the world for the peoples and by the peoples.

This international court of arbitration will be the voice of the people of the world, and will command the respect of the world's public opinion if in it, as the Bible suggests, religion, law and science are represented. Its quaint language is "priest, Levite and judge." The priest is he who stands for religion, so that righteousness shall temper justice with mercy. The Levite teaches the law (Lev. xxi., 5; xxxiii., 10) in the name of justice. And he who can judge is he who knows, that is, the scientist, be he historian, ethnologist, economist or diplomat. A Hague tribunal composed only of jurists and diplomats is insufficient. There must be also clergy, for religion is a power for good, and science, for science presents facts. Such a tribunal will mean that righteousness, justice and truth will be combined and so compel the respect of public opinion of the civilized world. They can be chosen pro rata to population by the highest clergy, jurists and scientists of each country, the Government appointing the diplomats.

By educating public opinion in the direction of mitigating national, racial and religious hatreds and prejudices; to teach men to forbear, forgive and forget; to publish also the chivalrous side of war where a dying German officer gives his water flask to a wounded Englishman, where the English bury a captive German commander who dies of pneumonia, giving him military honors; where Germans mark French graves "To our brave enemies." These things educate. Oh, the horror of these hatreds and prejudices that make peace and good will impossible; that set Catholic, Protestant and Greek Church against each other; that prejudice all against the mother religion! Behold Frenchman, revenge mad, hating German; German hating Englishman; Italian hating with long pent up hate the Austrian; and Serb hating Bulgar! Can nothing be done to educate public opinion toward "brotherhood of man"? "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." So teaches the law. Shall we say "Nothing can be done," or shall we "prepare the way"?

Educate public opinion; that is preparing the way for peace on earth and good will to all men, for peace with honor.

Educate it in time to make its voice heard in every land to demand that when at last peace pourparlers are officially begun, the terms of peace shall not be dictated by the victor to the vanquished, for that would mean new humiliations, new hates, new revenges born and immediate preparation for future war. No, the terms of peace, if it is to be peace with honor and permanent peace with honor, must be arranged by the international court of arbitration.

It will mean a United States of the World, each country sovereign, but all honoring a central force. It is time. It will mean the ballot being mightier than the bullet. Much time may be, will be, required to produce results; much time to prepare. Germany and France took forty-four years to prepare for their present war grapple.

Ask your minister to move his governing body to influence our great peace societies and wealthy peace lovers to establish such a peace bureau in the capital of every civilized country. It will mean a beginning of the preparation.

Let us begin.

H. PEREIRA MENDES,
Minister Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, New York.
EDGEMERE, L. I., December 25.

Who Was Ann McCarty?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In looking through the "Letters to Washington," published under the auspices of the Colonial Dames of America a few years ago, I found a footnote reference to William Ramsay of Alexandria, Va., "who married Ann McCarty, a relative of the mother of Washington." Ramsay died in 1795, and Washington notes in his diary of February 12, that year, that he went up to the funeral at Alexandria "and walked in procession as a Freemason."

As we readers of THE SUN are disposed to look upon it as a fountainhead of information, I thought I would ask space in your columns to find the exact relationship that existed between Ann McCarty and the mother of Washington.

P. A. PHILBIN.
ARCHBALD, Pa., December 24.

Cows Give North Carolina Boy Schooling.

From the Shelby Star.

Young Virgil Gardner of Route 4, who is making his way through Boiling Springs high school from the profits from his cows, has bought another and taken her to school for the purpose of paying his sister's way through school.

The Price of Efficiency.

Mrs. Outlate—Why are you so late?

Outlate—My dear, wash all ready to come home at twelve, but couldn't think of an excuse till three.

THE ROOSEVELT REVIVAL.

A Democrat Who Would Desert Mr. Wilson for the Colonel.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have been a Democrat always and am still a Democrat. But there is something prior to party, and that is to be an American, with the honor of one's country to be carried as jealously as Cyrano de Bergerac's panache.

I voted against Mr. Roosevelt when he ran for President. I had no sympathy with his Bull Moose policies and have none now. But during the present crisis, from the opening of the European war, I find that he has been the one American statesman who has stood solidly and firmly on his feet, first and foremost as an American with his country's honor as the prime consideration. I believe a country without honor is as degraded as a man without honor.

Our national honor has been lost in academic verbiage until in the eyes of the world we are a despised and degenerate people who love mammon better than righteousness. I do not want to see my country dragged into war. Heaven forefend! But there are things worse than war, and a people whose honor is forfeited to peace at any price deserve the fate of Carthage.

Theodore Roosevelt is the one public man who has voiced the true American sentiment in this crisis without evasion or equivocation. I believe that had he been President we should have now no cause to blush for our country's conduct. I entertain no fear that Mr. Roosevelt would jeopardize our peace. He is strong enough to maintain peace with honor, and this is a happy combination which has been sadly lacking these past eighteen months. When Belgian territory was violated, then was the auspicious hour to put in evidence our moral force as the great neutral of the world. As a nation we sat mute and cowardly; the war of frightfulness followed, and all our protestations have been vain verbiage ever since.

Should Mr. Roosevelt be nominated this coming year I am for him, irrespective of party, as a sane and substantial American whose record stands clear and sound in one of the most acute and momentous crises in our history.

CONDE B. PALLEN.
NEW YORK, December 25.

ABOLISH MAN.

Only by So Doing Can Real Reforms Be Achieved.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In a Washington despatch recently published in THE SUN Dr. John D. Quackenbos is quoted as saying in an address before the American Society for the Study of Alcohol and Other Narcotics that the tobacco habit is as bad as the drink habit, and that the intemperate use of tobacco explains 75 per cent. of all drink habit cases.

If this is true it would seem that the Anti-Saloon League is wasting its efforts in fighting the demon rum, when it should be attacking the tobacco devil. By prohibiting the manufacture and sale of the soul destroying cigarette, the baneful plug and the thirst producing cigar, 75 per cent. of our booze hitters would be reformed.

I fear, however, that about the time that our State and national legislators have abolished tobacco another scientific cuss will come along and show that something else is the cause of the tobacco habit, and there will have to be another movement to abolish the cause of the cause. In fact it would appear that the only logical conclusion is that reached by the third vagabond in Robert Louis Stevenson's fable of the "Three Men Under a Bramble Bush," who said, after hearing his companions' views as to reforming the world: "The way to reform the world is to abolish man." So it may be necessary to organize a society for the abolition of Dr. Quackenbos, Dr. Pease and all other uplifters, anti-tobacco faddists, prohibitionists, busybodies and reformers in general.

ANTI-EVERYTHING.
NEW YORK, December 25.

OLD BANGUM.

A Version for Which We Thank Judge Archbald and Mr. Starling.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At the request of my friend Judge Archbald of Scranton, Pa., I am sending you the complete story of "Old Bangum" as I used to sing it to him and other classmates of Yale, '71. It is as sung to me by my father when I was a child, say some sixty years ago.

I regret that I did not have intelligence enough to find out whatever my father may have known about its derivation. He was Kentucky born, but had travelled much in the West. The refrains give an idea of old English combined with Choctaw.

It seems Judge Archbald saw in THE SUN some fragments from a similar song as sung in the Ozark Mountains.

LYNE STARLING.
GREENVILLE, Miss., December 22.

Old Bangum rode down by the riverside,
Dallum down Dallum;
Old Bangum rode down by the riverside,
Kimmee Koo.
Old Bangum rode down by the riverside,
And there a beauteous maid he spied,
Dallum down Kimmee Koo Quam.

My pretty maid will you marry me?
Dallum down Dallum;
My pretty maid will you marry me?
Kimmee Koo.
My pretty maid will you marry me?
Yes, kind sir, if we agree
Dallum down Kimmee Koo Quam.

But there is a wild boar in this wood
Will eat your heart and drink your blood.

Old Bangum rode down by the wild boar's den
And there lay the bones of a thousand men.

The wild boar came forth very wroth,
Bending his course from south to north.

Old Bangum drew his butcher knife,
To fight the wild boar for his life.

They fought the hours of that day
And at last the wild boar ran away.

Then Bangum rode down to the riverside
And took the fair maid for his bride.

Iowa Neighborliness.

From the Des Moines Register and Leader.

Verne Connor, a farmer near Clarksville, recently suffered a broken leg in a fall, and has been unable to do work since. Last week twenty-four able bodied men of the neighborhood joined in giving Connor a free day's work. They husked and shocked his corn and repaired his fences. The women of the neighborhood also lent a helping hand to Mrs. Connor, whose housework had suffered because of the attention demanded by her husband.

Antiquity of the Safety Pin

From the Christian Herald.

That the Hittites were in constant communication with other nations is shown by the fact that Egyptian scarabs and amulets, Phœnician pottery and Greek terra cotta figures are found in the tombs of different periods. Bronze daggers and jewelry are fairly common, and Woolley proudly showed me a safety pin three thousand years old that would still work.

A Missouri Colonel's Many Wounds.

From the Central Missouri Leader.

Colonel M. E. Overstreet, while splitting wood, caught the axe over a clothes line and it rebounded and inflicted a severe scalp wound. The Colonel has had five serious wounds on his head, the worst being when a horse kicked him. He will soon be out again.

One Hunter to Each Quail in Kentucky.

From the Clinton Gazette.

County Clerk P. J. Vaughan has issued about 200 licenses to hunt quail. If the report of the scarcity of quail is not exaggerated it means an average of a hunter to the quail.

FINANCES OF THE NATIONS.

Rejoinder by Dr. Oberfohren From the Pro-German Point of View.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I suppose "Veritas," whose letter appeared in the columns of THE SUN on December 21, does not expect an answer to his letter, and indeed he makes it impossible to enter into a controversy with him, since he adopts a tone of invective and insult in which I do not feel inclined to follow him. His personal remarks against me I will leave aside altogether, and if I mention his letter at all it is in defence of Dr. Helfferich, with whom "Veritas" claims personal acquaintance, although he calls him president of the Reichsbank, a position which Dr. Helfferich neither holds nor ever held. His personal acquaintance and feigned esteem do not prevent "Veritas" from branding Dr. Helfferich a liar by blandly stating that he makes "statements that he knows are not true." I venture to say that "Veritas" is as well acquainted with the subject matter of Dr. Helfferich's words as he is with his position. However that may be, though I do not know Dr. Helfferich personally, I do know his books and his record as a private and public official, and I protest against such baseless insinuations against an absent countryman, a man who is of universally acknowledged rectitude.

In THE SUN of December 22 Mr. James S. H. Umsted reiterates most of the statements which I have questioned in my last letter.

Mr. Umsted is mistaken if he assumes my ignorance of the existence of the *Statist* and the *Economist*. I simply accepted his figures because at the moment of writing I had none of those English publications at hand.

As to the facts, the gold for treasury notes is still believed to be a reality only by those who do not trouble themselves about an explanation of the sudden increase of gold holdings by the Bank of England in the first months of the war. Besides the gold reserve of the institutions I mentioned in my last letter every available particle of gold held in the public coffers of the United Kingdom has been transferred to the vaults of the Bank of England.

I am well aware that a separate account is being kept of the currency notes. In fact this has nothing to do with the Bank of England, belonging as it does to the province of the treasury. But the figures in the currency notes account do not represent gold held beside that which is accounted for by the Bank of England. The gold set aside for the redemption of currency notes is delivered to the safe keeping of the Bank of England and thus figures in its gold stock. That the same sum figures in two distinct accounts is perfectly justifiable and a constant practice in Europe, where banks always consider their deposits in the central institution as identical with cash in hand. But it is not justifiable to pile these sums one upon the other. I do not doubt that the account of the institutions whose gold treasure has been incorporated in the Bank of England are in good order, but their stock has been merged with that legitimately belonging to the Bank of England. What figures are hereby involved is shown by the fact that the last account published by the Belgian National Bank reported about $90,000,000 in coin and bullion. If this sum as well as the gold holdings of the other institutions were to be disgorged by the Bank of England its own gold holdings would be much smaller than I have figured. But Mr. Umsted apparently prefers to pass these things in silence.

As to the silver question, even strong believers in English finances will probably doubt that the whole stock of silver money held by both departments of the Bank of England amounts to not more than £162,867, which sum includes even a certain amount of gold. A separate account of its silver holdings not being given, the natural inference is that the management of the bank is able to strain the King's English sufficiently to include the holding of silver in its figures of coin and bullion. Mr. Umsted passes in silence the question of the French silver cover for notes.

By putting the notes issued by the German war loan banks on the same level with the notes issued by the central banks Mr. Umsted shows how little he is acquainted with the working of these institutions. Whereas the central banks issue their notes mainly against discounted bills of exchange, the principal security being the soundness of the underlying commercial transaction, the war loan banks grant loans only against collateral; their security cannot be impaired by commercial failure. The speedy return of the loans is guaranteed by the strict condition imposed upon the borrowers, and pari passu with the decrease of the securities goes the decrease in the amount of notes. They are only a temporary measure designed to relieve the great need for currency which is caused by the intensification of Germany's economic life through her isolation from the rest of the world. The notes of the war loan banks will take care of themselves and will speedily disappear after the conclusion of peace without the Reichsbank's disbursing a single gold coin.

I am much obliged to Mr. Umsted for bringing to my knowledge the latest figures of the statistics of the Director of the United States Mint. I notice that the British gold holdings have increased since 1906, as could be reasonably expected. England's margin has thus been enlarged, but she still holds the smallest gold stock compared with Germany and France.

It has never been doubted that the central banks of England, France and Russia together held more gold than the banks of the Central Empires. In a recent contribution by Mr. F. E. Cooper to THE SUN an interesting fact was stated: gold at present stored in South African banks is included in the Bank of England's gold holdings. Similar facts are reported from Australia. They are another warning to be careful when estimating the value of the figures published by the English central bank.

But the main point of my argument has entirely escaped Mr. Umsted's attention. The gold problem at the present time is of comparatively slight importance for Germany and her allies, whereas it is a vital question for the Entente countries. The latter have to pay for ever increasing importations, while in the whole combination there is only England still to show considerable exportations. Russia is an absolute burden to English finances, and France's industry is crippled by the loss of the most important departments to the invaders. The immense balance in the international trade of the allied countries has to be paid for, and to be paid in gold. How far the commandeering of American securities in England, the latest makeshift resorted to, will go remains to be seen. Another loan without collateral will scarcely be attempted after the recent failure. The English and the allied money bags will have to face a bill which will exceed their resources, and all juggling of figures will not alter this fact.

In contrast thereto Germany's financial problem is a question of domestic organization. As long as the products of her soil, labor and science are sufficient to her needs no grave disturbances are to be feared. As long as the enemy does not, by an actual invasion, destroy Germany's resources, her gold stock is not endangered. It is a reserve which can be used as soon as peaceful trade is reestablished. For England and her allies present conditions imply a constant drain of gold which will in a not very far future leave the economic machinery of the countries without the lubricating grease. If the war lasts long enough they will from creditors of the whole world become universal debtors.

R. J. OBERFOHREN.
NEW YORK, December 25.

ROOT'S FRIENDS IN MORE HOPEFUL VEIN

They Hear That Hughes Will Positively Decline to Run if Nominated.

BARNES TALKS WHITMAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Since the reported refusal of ex-Senator Root to permit his name to go on the primary ballot in Minnesota there has been much speculation here as to just what part he will play in the campaign next year.

His supposed attitude toward the Minnesota primary fight has led to the assumption by many that Mr. Root will not permit his name to be used in any State in an effort to get delegates.

Men in Congress who have been hoping for the nomination of Mr. Root and who are supposed to know now he feels in regard to the Presidential nomination said to-night, however, that he stands now in the same attitude toward the nomination as he has always stood. He will accept if nominated, but he is not going out to make a scramble for votes.

The attitude of William Barnes, Jr., toward Mr. Root has caused lively comment in Washington. Mr. Root's friends say that Mr. Barnes in his private conferences here at the time of the meeting of the Republican National Committee was talking Gov. Whitman and decrying ex-Senator Root. Barnes, in these talks, finally intimated that Whitman would afford a rallying point for the delegates and that they could then be told what they were expected to do after they arrived at the convention.

Optimism Over Root.

Senators and Representatives who have been advocating the nomination of Mr. Root seem to-night to have lost none of their interest in the plan. They contend that Mr. Root will loom so large by the time the convention meets that he will overshadow the other candidates.

Men who have been backing Mr. Root have been worrying most over the Hughes sentiment, but they appear to have taken fresh courage within the last few days over a report, which they say comes very direct, that Justice Hughes will decline if nominated.

The belief grows here among Republicans that Roosevelt is out after the nomination. They realize that the Colonel's strongest influence upon the convention will be exercised through the veto power. The candidate that he points out as personally obnoxious to him will have a hard time to convince the managers of the Chicago convention that he is available with the people. There has been some difficulty in identifying the Colonel's candidate recently.

A few months ago it was rumored that the Colonel would "work to elect Root" if Root were nominated because he regarded him sound upon the two great issues—"our foreign policy and national defence."

Latterly, however, there have been disquieting reports from Oyster Bay for the friends of Root.

The Colonel is said now to be unable to concede the fitness of Mr. Root. From time to time Col. Roosevelt has been reported for various candidates or as approving them. The latest report is that he would "stand for Cummins."

Iowa Deeply Moved.

This statement, which came through one of the Colonel's closest newspaper friends, caused a wave of tremulous emotion to sweep over Iowa and vibrations were felt in Washington.

Another "inspired" newspaper account has put the Colonel in the attitude of approving Knox, Hadley or Hughes. The approval of Hadley is the greatest surprise of all to politicians familiar with the events of the Chicago Republican convention four years ago.

One of the remarkable things about the race for the Republican nomination for the minds of political observers here is the lack of organized effort now being put into the fight on behalf of the announced candidates. Hughes, the boom of Henry Etabrook, the New York lawyer, is the most indefinite.

Friends of ex-Senator Burton have opened quarters in Washington. He will