The Sun.

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THEN AND NOW.

Above these whimpering, cautious monotones,
I hear the courage of old John Paul Jones,
"We have not yet begun to fight."
Sharp then
Those thirty-twos; for Yankeeland had men
In those days. "Damn torpedoes, go ahead!"
That was Mobile: but Farragut is dead.
Lawrence, Decatur, Perry, Bainbridge, Hull,
Names! But in those tremendous days not null
And void were we. The blue and red and white
Meant right of way, nor were "too proud to fight."
Then we spoke out in tones and terms that smote,
Now we shrink sidewise, write another note,
Make marplot Bryan our adopted aunt
And call American Americant!

Thus far have we descended from our sires,
Greedy and timid we have banked the fires.
We would row backward. We have come to this,
The world despises our huge cowardice,
The shout of Justice we have quite forgot,
Posing statistics that are but dry rot!
Tear down the tattered ensigns! Impotence
Yields all for tribute, nothing for defence.
Any disgraceful way to save our pelts,
Hurrah for U. S. and for nobody else!
Mammon be God! And so we wait and watch,
Our hand to mouth diplomacies one botch,
While red hell singes, pimpled vanity
Speculates possible insanity.
A kitchen cabinet, garrulous and cheap,
Mumbles its phrases, walking in its sleep.
Up with the flag! Strike it aloft to stay.
To-morrow shall be then as yesterday.

M. WOOLSEY STRYKER.

CLINTON, April 19.

Just a Republican Legislature.

The Legislature that adjourned yesterday was consistently Republican. The Assembly election of last November was accepted as a popular indorsement of the record made in 1915; the party leaders had gone to the people, and their commissions had been renewed. When Governor WHITMAN read the election returns he said that had he been on the ticket he would have carried the State by a quarter of a million votes, and while the engineers of the machine would not indorse this declaration, they believed their hands had been upheld.

Hence there has been no effort to appease the protestants against State extravagance, sectional enactments and the like. A Republican Legislature has served the Republican party in the familiar way. It had no violent opposition to good bills, provided they jumped with Republican purpose; it was not adverse to non-partisan praise, provided it could be attained without sacrifice of Republican plans; and its record is neither better nor worse than the histories of most of its predecessors. Certainly it is not worse than the records of the Democratic bodies that have recently afflicted New York.

Now that the lawmakers have gone home the Governor's period of supremacy during the consideration of the thirty day bills begins. How many of the legislators long for the end of this trying month, and the beginning of the day when they will feel free to speak the thoughts that are in their minds?

Mr. Bryan's Pathetic Lack of Humor.

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN explains his present peace pilgrimage to Washington upon the basis that as a "patriotic citizen" it is his duty to use such influence as he may possess to save this country from the deplorable disaster of a foreign war. At the same time he admits that he knows "little or nothing" about the present aspects of our controversy with Germany's Government.

From the very outset of his public activities up to the present moment Mr. BRYAN's career has been, in its larger features, a stupendous failure because of his lack of the saving grace of humor. Humor is that precious possession by means of which he who is blessed with it sees all things in their true perspective, including his own individuality. The Pecksniffian type of man, whose egotism is always raised to the nth power, is wholly devoid of that appreciation of the ridiculous which vouchsafes to him who has it the joy of laughter the while it saves him from becoming a source of laughter to other people.

If there is one influence among many that has been the most potent in bringing about the present dangerous crisis with Germany it is the impression that was made upon the Teutonic nations by Mr. BRYAN's resignation as Secretary of State, a step upon his part that led them to believe that as a people we Americans were a house divided against ourselves, a nation willing to pay any price in honor, pride and consistency for the preservation of peace.

Having by his petulant abandonment of the ship of state in its hour of peril added immeasurably to that same peril, Mr. BRYAN, to demonstrate again his unalterable and unselfish "patriotism," abandons a lecture tour to hurry to the seat of Government—for what purpose? Assuredly to embarrass further an Administration that had conferred upon him the highest honor in its gift, in the darkest and most trying days that have befallen a President and his advisers since LINCOLN's time.

The contempt that his lack of good taste, to put it mildly, has awakened among thousands of Americans who once followed his leadership is not apparently within Mr. BRYAN's purview. He cannot see himself as others see him. Perhaps, however, the present ludicrous exhibition he is making of his foiled and deluded self is not without some advantage to the general public.

Russians on the Western Front.

The report that Russian soldiers have disembarked at Marseilles to join the French and British on the western front does not explain by what route the Russians came or disclose their numbers. The announcement is said to have the sanction of the censor, and General JOFFRE himself has issued an army order welcoming the Russians to French soil. "No news in many weeks," says the despatch, "has so electrified the French capital as the brief bulletins passed by the censor."

Archangel may have been the port of departure of the Russian troops. They could have been brought round the Cape of Good Hope from the east, although the submarine gantlet in the Mediterranean might be risked after passage of the Suez Canal. During the war with Japan a Russian squadron made a memorable voyage from the Baltic to the China Sea and met its fate at Tsushima. If transports were available there would be no serious difficulty in transporting a Russian force from Siberia the reverse way, for not a single hostile gun is afloat in Asiatic waters. It is conceivable that by control of the cables the secret could be kept. What a romance of the war it would be if nothing were heard of the expedition until the transports steamed into Marseilles!

In an order of the day issued early in March to the army defending Verdun General JOFFRE said: "You have munitions in abundance and numerous reserves." After more than fifty days of battle the French are still able to block the road to Paris and hold the Germans back. Apparently only a great Russian army would be of substantial aid to the Allies on the western front, a host insuring a preponderance of battalions for a final offensive. The Russians, it is calculated, have 10,000,000 men capable of bearing arms, and perhaps more, but hitherto the Government has not been able to train, uniform and arm all the men needed for the eastern front and the campaign in the Caucasus.

How could a strong force of effectives be spared for the western front? The idea must be dismissed. Judging from the order attributed to General JOFFRE no army has been landed in France, for the order speaks of "Russian soldiers chosen from the bravest in her armies and commanded by officers of the highest renown." This would indicate a contingent offered and accepted for political and patriotic ends, to inspire the French and British to even more heroic endeavor. But the question remains, how were these Russian troops transported to France?

Admiral Dewey's Day.

We agree with our friend in Colorado who now suggests that the anniversary of the Battle of Manila Bay should be celebrated with rejoicing in a formal manner throughout the land. On May 1, 1898, the men of the Asiatic squadron, under command of Commodore GEORGE DEWEY, gave testimony to their worth and skill that filled every American heart with pride and confidence. Subsequently, under most trying conditions, the high spirit of the navy, the firmness of its officers, and the complete assurance they and the men under them felt in their ability to defend American rights from any foe were convincingly displayed. None of the incidents of that trying period has been forgotten; they form a gratifying chapter in the creditable history of the navy of the United States.

But we do not share our Delta friend's opinion that GEORGE DEWEY has been badly treated by his countrymen. He has received the thanks of Congress; for him was created the office he now holds under the title Admiral of the Navy, and he was exempted from the rule which requires retirement for age. So long as GEORGE DEWEY lives he will be on the active list, and to-day he serves as President of the General Board, his mature wisdom and great experience enlisted for the guidance of our first line of defence. The Admiral of the Navy is a grade above Admiral, which was attained by FARRAGUT and PORTER. Officially it is plain that the republic has not been ungrateful to the man who cut the cables.

Have the American people generally been remiss in their tribute to GEORGE DEWEY? We do not admit it for an instant. Each reward conferred on him by the Government has been applauded by his admiring countrymen; each utterance of his on professional subjects is respectfully received; affection and deference mark the demonstrations his too infrequent appearances in public provoke; his intelligence rooted reticence on subjects his modesty tells him are beyond the field of his especial attainments, itself a valuable contribution to national discipline, has not gone unpraised; and wherever solidity of accomplishment, loyalty to duty, and unpretentious excellence are recognized, honor is his. We cannot concede that those who pay tribute to his deeds and his character are few in number or small in influence; they constitute the great and wholesome body of citizens who do not spend their time in yawping, but seriously devote themselves to the cultivation of virtue and the unending struggle against idiocy in high places and low. If in public matters he has erred through unfamiliarity with political processes, those errors are forgotten and in no way impair his fine repute.

If our correspondent will give thought to the facts we have suggested for her consideration, we think she will revise her opinion that GEORGE DEWEY has "not only been ignored, but most severely criticised by those who for a brief time bent low in hero worship." It is true that a few envious fools once assailed him for a gallant and chivalrous act gracefully performed in his private character; had they not found this occasion to attack him, they would have found another. Every community has its fools, its men and women of mean disposition; with them sensible folks must bear as with other natural afflictions. They have never seriously harmed a good man; they deserve only silence and contempt; their puerile malice, ineffective as it is base, affected in no manner the esteem DEWEY has earned.

By all means let every loyal citizen remember and mark May 1 as Admiral DEWEY's Day; it is the day of the breed that is never too proud to fight for America.

The Impresario's Task.

It is surprising to hear that the performance of the opera "Louise" by GUSTAV CHARPENTIER may have to be postponed since there is no singer in the company qualified to take the title rôle. In all the field of modern French opera there is no work so likely to please audiences at the opera house. It was one of the mainstays of the season at the Manhattan Opera House. There is a constant demand for works of the French répertoire at the Metropolitan; so CHARPENTIER's work would have seemed in every way the best choice.

Of course, it is not meant that there is no soprano in the company for the part. Standards are high at the Metropolitan Opera House, and the public is exacting as to the quality of its singers. So it may be that there could not be found in the company a soprano equal to the title rôle in the popular French work according to the Metropolitan criterion.

One difficulty in enlarging the répertoire of that institution is the demand that every singer shall be of the first rank. Never did an impresario have a more difficult public to deal with than the audiences which depend on the general manager of the Metropolitan Opera House. In effect, three composers are enjoyed by the audiences which go there. If the works of WAGNER, PUCCINI and VERDI were removed from the répertoire of the theatre the public would never attend. The indifference of the audiences to novelties is a well known difficulty.

In no other country which enjoys the civilizing influence of opera is the taste of the public so narrow. It is possible to give occasionally operas by MEYERBEER, GOUNOD and other composers whose works are practically rejected now without a hearing. It would seem that there might be audiences sufficiently interested to listen to some of the famous operas of the past. But that is unluckily not true. Three composers dominate the répertoire to-day to the exclusion of all the others.

So the impresario has a difficult task to select enough well liked works to fill out a season. His troubles are not lightened by the necessity of having the performances reach such a high level in execution that an opera like "Louise," which is in the répertoire of many less important opera houses, has to be abandoned for the lack of capable artists.

Cardinal Farley's Autobiography.

Cardinal FARLEY is 74, and he should write his autobiography. No man in New York has watched with keener intelligence or broader sympathy the growth of the city, the extension of his church's influence, the changes time has brought. He ought to give his fellow citizens the benefit of his observations, a selection from his rich store of reminiscences, a word of counsel drawn from ripe experience for future guidance. The Cardinal has always taken deep interest in the promotion of education; is it not a duty that lies upon him to preserve the stores of knowledge that are in his mind?

Since 1870, when he came from the American College in Rome to be assistant rector of St. Peter's, in New Brighton, Staten Island, the community that has been the seat of his ceaseless activities and gratifying rise has undergone many changes. In all that were for its good he has had a part, not less effective because sustained with native modesty. In them he has shown foresight; how valuable would be the record of his hindsight to his contemporary workers for moral and civic advancement! If the Cardinal were asked to prepare a survey of his life because he might derive pleasure from the review of his deeds, he would refuse without considering the project for an instant; but when it is put to him as a work he owes the rest of us, there may be hope of winning his consent.

But even if Cardinal FARLEY declines this request, he is assured of the continued affection of men of all creeds. They know that his labors throughout a long and fruitful life have been for their common good.

Uncle SAM has taken to submarine sketching by drawing the line.

It must annoy JOSEPHUS to realize that Congress may be sufficiently nervous to strengthen the navy.

Governor WHITMAN's inquiry into the condition of the institutions under the inspection of the State charities authorities for some time has worn the aspect of a quarrel between two factions of philanthropists and their supporters, and in such a disagreement it is plain that the police have no proper place. The tapping of telephone wires is an incident of crime detection that should never be resorted to except for the enforcement of the law, and in the case that now engages attention the police must reveal a sufficient reason for their conduct or rest under the suspicion of a serious abuse of power. The fact that another department of the city government is interested in the charities inquiry as a partisan does not justify the use of the police to bolster up its side of the dispute.

No generous person will withhold from the indefatigable EMMA congratulations on the success of her efforts to get into jail, although she was obliged to have herself for a client to accomplish her object.

In the war in Nebraska Mr. BRYAN seems to have been "hurled" back.

With an experience of eight years as a Probate Judge Mr. WILLIAM MOULTON INGRAHAM of Portland, who is to be Assistant Secretary of War, should soon be able to master the red tape of the Department and cut it at strategical points.

General FUNSTON must sometimes wish himself back at Vera Cruz, and probably he is more convinced than ever that it was a mistake to recall his brigade.

A bright feature of the entertainment was a pony ballet of six "girls."—*Report of a musical comedy presented by Harvard students.*

The better they do it, the worse it is.

Secretary of War BAKER has leased near Washington a suburban home named "In the Woods." But the country is looking to him to help it get out of them.

Representative WALSH, who comes from the non-agricultural section of Boston, moved to strike the garden seed appropriation from the bill.—*Washington despatch.*

The Hon. JOSEPH WALSH, now serving his first term in the House of Representatives, does not come from "the non-agricultural section of Boston," but from New Bedford; moreover, all but six of his life of forty-one years Mr. WALSH lived on Cape Cod, the land of the pumpkin and the cranberry. The Candlers, Simses and Heflins of the House cannot understand how a countryman like Mr. WALSH opposes the expenditure of $250,000 for the distribution of free garden seeds. The practice is a wasteful survival of the long past day when a package of seeds was a boon to the denizen of rural parts. The Hon. EZEKIEL SAMUEL CANDLER, pride of Tishomingo, thought to put the New Bedford member down by telling him that both THOMAS JEFFERSON and BENJAMIN FRANKLIN distributed garden seeds. The proof need not be asked for: in their day seeds were not cheap and plentiful, five cents a package in every crossroads general store.

In principle the seed appropriation is all wrong—as well distribute rakes, weed pullers, watering pots and fertilizers. But it is good local politics. The rural Representative, particularly in the South and West, dare not, as a rule, vote against free seeds. WALSH of New Bedford was brought up a countryman, but "I shall never become a Government seed pedler," he declared in the House. Let him stick to that side of the issue as Tishomingo CANDLER does to the other. Slowly but surely the opposition to the seed farce grows. Some day Congress will knock it out and save the money.

Of the American attitude of preparedness I have grown to believe in the truth of the saying "God looks after little children, drunken men and the United States."—*Ex-President* TAFT.

What, again!

HENRY FORD solemnly asserts that he is running a long way ahead of his ambition.

Michigan has reason to be extremely jealous of the picturesque aspects of Nebraska politics.

American history indicates that so far as this country is concerned the grim visage of war has a predilection for appearing in the month of April.

Talk is heard now that FORD's name will be put before the Pennsylvania voters. In view of the large labor element and peace element there, it is likely he will get a large vote in the Keystone State.—*Washington despatch.*

Would not this be poaching on the Colonel's preserve? He will have to call GIFFORD PINCHOT to the colors if HENRY FORD breaks into Pennsylvania.

The Russian soldiers whose arrival in France was announced yesterday cannot be the same men who passed through England in the fall of 1914.

An Ozarks Fault Finder.

From the Aurora World.

Why, during a recent snowstorm in the Ozarks, were Springfield and Lebanon favored with a heavier blanket of crystallized moisture than Aurora?

A Friend of Humanity.

Knicker—Has Smith's car made him popular?

Bocker—Those he takes out sue him for damages and the rest sue him for breach of contract.

HOW TO GET A POST OFFICE.

Precise and Consoling Information for an Inquirer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent S. B. Doughty, who wants you to help him get a new post office for Englewood, N. J., has set you an easy task. Just tell him this:

Get your Congressman to introduce a bill authorizing the appropriation of the sum wanted for the purchase of a site and erection of a building. It will be referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. The committee won't do anything with the bill in this Congress, so in the next Congress start all over again. Your Congressman will then explain the urgent needs of Englewood to the nineteen members of the committee separately, get a hearing before the committee by citizens who will be asked in what part of Long Island Englewood is, and be assured that your bill shall have careful consideration.

That is as far as you will get in that Congress, but in the next an item for half the amount you've asked for will be incorporated in an omnibus bill. Then your Congressman must study the bill, make a list of all the members interested in any of the items and interest them in his.

Toward the end of the session the bill passes, but goes over in the Senate to the next session, when you repeat all that you've done, but this time in the Senate through your Senator. Finally the bill passes and is signed by the President; the President's secretary gives your Congressman the pen the President signed with. Also he gives each interested Congressman the same pen (that is magic); your Congressman gives the pen to the chairman of the banquet given to the Congressman for having secured a new post office.

In a year or two you learn that no appropriation has been made. It has only been authorized. The appropriation is made by a committee of which John J. Fitzgerald is chairman. He supposes Englewood, N. J., is a golf club, and upon learning that it is a town is so surprised he takes no action for three years.

Then he takes pity on your Congressman and tells him that he will appropriate a sum for the site when an estimate is submitted to him by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Your Congressman goes to the Treasury building, tells his woes to various people, is finally referred to the Supervising Architect, who promises to send an inspector of sites just as soon as he can get hold of one. He is a nice chap and sends an inspector to Englewood the following year.

So in the following year after that, the inspector having selected a site, it is finally approved, title is examined and things begin to look bright. They are. Right away in the following year the Secretary of the Treasury includes in his estimates an item to purchase the site and the appropriation is made. You give your Congressman another banquet.

Two years later an appropriation is made for preliminary work on your building; a man digs a hole on the site and tells the Supervising Architect what sort of soil Englewood has.

Then, ah, then! you've only to wait until the plans are drawn, contracts let, "continuing appropriation" passed and a contractor comes along and starts work—digging a basement.

Three or four years later you get your post office.

MAYBE.

NEW YORK, April 20.

ADMIRAL DEWEY'S DAY.

Has the Hero of Manila Bay Been Shabbily Treated?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* On May 1 will occur the eighteenth anniversary of the battle of Manila Bay. Admiral Dewey has been treated very shabbily by the American people. He has not only been ignored but most severely criticised by those who for a brief time bent low in hero worship.

After his death countless eulogies will be written and monuments erected in his honor. A little appreciation now will mean more to Admiral Dewey than all the post-mortem adulation that will follow his demise.

It would be a graceful thing for this nation to mark the coming anniversary by a fitting celebration in honor of Admiral Dewey. The schools of the country could hold brief exercises of a patriotic character.

It would be an object lesson of value to the youth of our land to know that their country appreciates unselfish service, whether given in time of peace or war.

It is said that republics are always ungrateful. Shall we allow our country to rest under this imputation?

MRS. ADAH PRICE,
Superintendent, Delta County Schools.
DELTA, Col., April 13.

The Minority "Leader."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If the statement credited to Representative MANN, which appeared in THE SUN this morning, is true, his continued presence in the House is intolerable.

Men of his type are largely responsible for the lack of cohesion, and contribute exclusively toward the weakness developed in a democracy in times of peril. He is unacquainted with the essence of true patriotism and is disloyal to the tradition of his party.

I have always been a Republican, believing in its principles. My sympathies previous to the war were naturally pro-German, influenced by inheritance and colored by family environment, but I realize equity and right are not confined to any nation, creed or party, and our position outlined by the President is just.

Representative Mann and his type is as dangerous to our country as the inhuman condition from which we seek relief.

Representative Mann—truly a "minority leader." G. W. G.

JERSEY CITY, April 20.

St. Paul's Comma.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Of course St. Paul was wrong because he wrote it:

So fight I, not as one that beateth the air.

According to the pacifists the way it should have been written is:

So fight I not, as one that beateth the wind.

The Apostle would have accented the second and third words in his declaration, the pacifists the third and fourth.

FRANK A. EGAN.

NEW ROCHELLE, April 20.

Safe From the Vicariously Charitable.

Jack the Giant Killer boasted of his invisible coat.

"My wife can't put it in a charity bundle," he chuckled.

In the *Century* for May Mr. Howells's serial is continued and Mr. Whitman's ended. There are stories by Max Beerbohm, Willa S. Cather, Lawrence Perry, Mary H. Vorse and Arthur Gleason. George Creel writes on military training, John Palmer on France this year, J. R. Smith on Roman farming methods, Hildegarde Hawthorne on Verbeck's pictures, and H. A. Bruce on the child's mind. Tributes are paid to the late Alexander Wilson Drake. There are pictures without words of Philadelphia by J. Pennell and of Beerbohm-Tree in Shakespearian parts; also four poems.

THE FLAG OF LEXINGTON.

What Was It?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* On this anniversary of the battle of Lexington and Concord one recalls Emerson's lines:

By the rude bridge that spans the flood,
Their flag to April's airs unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard 'round the world.

What flag did the embattled farmers carry? Who made it? Whence did they get it? R. H. TOWNER.

NEW YORK, April 19.

The farmers of Lexington carried the cornet or standard of the Three County Troop. This banner was devised for a local company of cavalry raised in the counties of Essex, Suffolk and Middlesex, Massachusetts, in 1659. The office of color bearer of this troop was a sort of inheritance in the Page family. The standard was carried in King Philip's war in 1676. When the minute men were organized Nathaniel Page 3d of Bedford took the old flag for use at drill. At the midnight alarm Capt. Page snatched up the standard and carried it with him to Concord, where it "waved above the smoke of that battle."

The flag is now preserved under glass in a fireproof safe of the Public Library at Bedford, Mass., and can be seen by arrangement with the librarian, according to Peleg D. Harrison, in whose volume, "The Stars and Stripes and Other American Flags" (Boston, Little Brown & Co., 1906; page 30, et seq.) the history of the banner is related.

The ground is maroon or crimson colored satin damask emblazoned with an outstretched arm, in the hand of which is an uplifted sword. This representation is the color of silver, as are three circular figures that are probably intended to represent cannon balls. Upon a gold colored scroll are the words, "Vince aut Moriture" (Conquer or Die). The flag is about two feet by one foot six inches. The original fringe appears to have been taken by a Bedford girl to trim a dress for a military ball. That was, of course, before the standard was borne by the embattled farmers.

LEGAL TECHNICALITIES.

New York Practice Glorifies Circumlocution and Red Tape.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* C. P. Connolly of East Orange is right in his criticism of the idiotic verbosity of the New York legal document he was called upon to sign. But he should remember that our bar thrives on technicalities. Justice Rodenbeck devises a reasonably good method to simplify our practice; the intelligent committees of the various bar associations all favor this, but the bar does not. So the handsomely bound blue volumes of reports on the simplified practice are used as door weights or to fill in the recessed ends of law book cases.

Since 1848 there has not been passed a single act that simplifies our legal procedure, except those which cut useless verbiage out of deeds and mortgages. And the codes committees have ever since looked with horror on this, and together with the judiciary committees have striven to put technicalities back into deeds and mortgages. Does Mr. Connolly not know that the grantee's address must be given, to protect subsequent grantees, just as if a crooked grantee would not lie about his address and an honest one be truthful, as is in practice the case? But this is part and parcel of protection by legislation, so dear to the reformer and so dear in another sense to the reformed, or rather the person on whom reform of this kind is practised.

Doesn't Mr. Connolly know that New York never lifts a finger to facilitate the dealing in real estate? That to convey a good title to-day is harder than in the days of Coke? That no matter how careful, he could not protect himself against the claim of dower of a wife unheard of at the time he took title and who may turn up fifty years later and invalidate his title?

Doesn't Mr. Connolly know that some years ago the codes committees in a moment of forgetfulness of technicalities and red tape amended the code so as to provide that when a Judge tries a case without a jury he might, in common parlance, decide thus: "I have heard the evidence in this case, my opinion is that the defendant has successfully met the plaintiff's evidence and I give judgment for him"? In other words he was permitted to do just what a jury does. But this was contrary to years and years of technicalities; it had been made impossible for lawyers to proceed as follows: For the plaintiff to submit 117 paragraphs of what he called findings of fact and seventy-three paragraphs of conclusions of law, of which as a matter of fact the only ones the lawyer could charge for were the ones in which judgment was given his client for damages and costs. Contrariwise the defendant's attorney also submitted 239 paragraphs of what he called findings of facts and 137 paragraphs of conclusions of law, of which, as far as he really was concerned, only the one dismissing the complaint with costs was the important one.

The poor Judge had to pass on all these, and if by chance he found a wrong set of minor facts or made a slip on a subordinate question of law, no matter how just the decision as a whole, he might be and often was reversed, and away all hands went for more expense, more delay, more evidence, more findings and more conclusions. But the technicality of the law was vindicated. It was a victory for delay and red tape.

Now this was too rich and good a thing to leave changed, as it was, and the bar went back to the old system, as silly, senseless and meaningless as Mr. Connolly's quoted paper, and we are under the rule of technicalities again, as bad as the rules of pleading at common law and the delays in chancery so well described in "Bleak House."

Does Mr. Connolly know the importance of the word "duly" in the New York courts? He can find 9,179 cases on it in our reports. It means everything in A. vs. B, it is immaterial in C. vs. D, it is wrong to use it in E. vs. F. It is a great word, superior to law and justice; but technical.

In East Orange a simplified practice prevails, just as it does in the honored Inns of Court in London, compared to which the New York practice is as clear as a law report of 1300 would be to a law student at Harvard law school today.

New York practice is for delay; it causes awful injustice; it is fearfully expensive, but gloriously technical.

There is dignity of law; it is a great science, it has produced wonderful minds, but under the New York code it stays primarily technical, not for economy's sake, but for plain red tape.

STUDENT OF HISTORY.

NEW YORK, April 19.

Out of Use Go-Carts Wanted.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A letter came to the Bureau of Family Rehabilitation and Relief, 105 East Twenty-second street, this morning from a poor mother who wrote: "If I only had a go-cart I could take my little baby out, but I am not strong enough to carry him and I cannot afford to buy a carriage."

Many other poor mothers, tired from hard work or weak from recent illness, could send the same message.

Any of your readers can give a mother and baby the pleasure and benefit of many daily outings by sending an out of use go-cart or baby carriage to the Relief Bureau of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, 105 East Twenty-second street.

HELENE INGRAM,
Superintendent of Bureau.

NEW YORK, April 20.

THEODORE AND THE COUNTRY.

An Old Republican Discovers One Man of Presidential Size.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As an old Republican whose first vote was for Lincoln on his second term, I want to record my disgust with the attitude of prominent Congressmen, and especially with those having Presidential aspirations. Cummins, La Follette, Burton, all have been playing for the German vote. None of these men has dared to express an opinion calculated to irritate the so-called German Americans who are loyal, not to the country of their adoption, but to the German Kaiser.

Look at Congressman Mann of Illinois intimating the possibility of war with Great Britain over interference with our trade with neutral countries, but not a peep out of him against Germany, which has for a year been murdering American men, women and children on the high seas at her own sweet will.

Is the German vote more important than the simon pure American vote? Some of these trimmers are going to get badly left at the next Congressional election.

Just one man of Presidential size has had the courage to speak out straight from the shoulder and denounce German brutality in proper terms, and that man is Theodore Roosevelt, a high grade American and not a mongrel.

If he isn't nominated at Chicago in June and elected in November, it will be because the American people have lost the patriotic spirit of their ancestors and are no longer really capable of self-government. M. T. R.

NEW YORK, April 20.

A Clergyman Criticises the Colonel for Criticising the President.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A crisis is upon our nation. No note of greater moment has doubtless been sent by an American President than the one which has just gone to Berlin. Specifically the crimes of Germany are described, and the charge is made that that nation has been convicted by its own mouth of falsehood.

At this crisis every man deserving the name of patriot will take a dignified attitude of silent, if not outspoken, commendation of the President's act in giving Germany a final warning of this nation's determination to uphold that standard of human rights which was uplifted in the beginning of the diplomatic correspondence.

How small and pusillanimous for any one, ex-President or other, to blame and censure the Administration at this time! Hyphenated citizens have been violently criticised by certain political aspirants. Is their lack of allegiance any more despicable than that of a man of influence who seizes a time of national difficulty to try to curry political favor? This is not only not patriotic, it is positively traitorous. Yet we see this done by political demagogues, and Wilson actually blamed in this morning's paper for sending his note at this date, and censured for not having plunged this country into difficulty by pursuing a more stringent policy before.

These sentiments are ascribed to Theodore Roosevelt. May they not be his own sentiments, but only those ascribed to him by newspaper reporters.

Surely he has retained enough self-respect not to be a barking dog at the Presidente heels when he sees him already involved in serious trouble.

WYTHE LEIGH KINSOLVING.

NEW YORK, April 20.

THE SENATE ARMY BILL.

Voters Urged to Write to Their Representatives in Behalf of It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Every man who can afford a two cent stamp should write immediately to his Representative in Congress, urging him to vote for the Chamberlain bill with Section 56 retained, providing a volunteer army under Federal control. This is what President Wilson advocated when he said:

It seems absolutely necessary that in addition to the National Guard there should be a considerable body of men of some military training who are willing to pledge themselves to come at the call of the nation * * * A body of men organized under the immediate direction of the national authorities * * * Those plans are going to be adopted.

The President later retreated from his position and allowed the substitution of a gold brick known as the Hay bill, thereby forcing the resignation of Secretary Garrison and Assistant Secretary Breckinridge. But this in no way alters the fact that the Chamberlain bill with Section 56 is a short step away from the brink of disaster and ruin toward which the criminal folly and neglect of those highest in authority have been driving us headlong. The Chamberlain bill has just passed the Senate. There is no time to lose. Each voter should write to his Representative now.

W. SCOTT CAMERON.

SOUTHAMPTON, April 20.

The Plan of "Civitas."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Giving every credit to "Civitas" for his attempt to produce order out of the chaos of Federal and State legislation on railroads, it is apparent that his suggestion of parallelism in the treatment of the capital stock of railroads and that of Federal reserve banks has a very fatal weakness. He has entirely overlooked the fact that the capital stock of Federal reserve banks is only part of the capital of the owners of those banks, and that there is nothing to prevent such owners earning any possible dividend on the remainder of their capital employed in banking.

There is nothing whatever of this sort in connection with the ownership of railroad stock, and the suggestion to guarantee 3 per cent., with a possible extra 3 per cent., and all over to go to the Government, looks mighty like confiscation, for "Civitas" evidently does not propose that, in the case of stock receiving more than 3 per cent., additional stock shall be issued to compensate owners up to the standard of their present income.

Possibly it would be well before "Civitas" proceeds with further elaborations of his scheme that he tell us how he would overcome this difficulty.

M. B. WILD.

BALTIMORE, Md., April 19.

Harmony in the British War Relief Association.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In THE SUN of April 20 you have done the British War Relief Association a great injustice in the headline "British War Body Split by Fight."

Since the expulsion of the former officer who is now seeking reinstatement the society under the leadership of Major Louis Livingston Seaman, its president, has quadrupled in membership, and has enormously increased its shipment of medical and surgical supplies. The association is conspicuous among the relief societies in this city in efficiency and in economy in management.

At the last annual meeting the present board was unanimously reelected. There is entire harmony in the association between the membership and the board of directors, and the relief work is going forward to an extent hitherto unequalled.

GEORGE EDWIN JOSEPH,
Attorney for the British War Relief Association.

NEW YORK, April 20.

In *Scribner's Magazine* for May Katharine F. Gerould gives her impressions of Honolulu, John Corbin praises words, F. C. Howe holds that control of the Mediterranean is the cause of the war, and the operations in Champagne are described. There are stories by Mary Synon, Robert Herrick, G. T. Marsh, C. C. Dobie and D. Burrows, with the continuation of Louis Dodge's serial and three poems.

HOT WORDS FLY IN DEBATE ON FORUMS

U. S. Expert Rouses Community Workers by Urging Curb on School Use.

LABOR PROTEST VOICED

The eighth floor of the Hotel Astor was the scene of a hot verbal fight yesterday, when the delegates to the National Conference on Community Centres, which opened there Wednesday, took up the question of turning school buildings over to groups of private individuals and shook it as a dog does a bone.

Edward J. Ward, expert on community centre organization in the United States Bureau of Education, had come hotfoot from Wisconsin, where he has been doing community centre work, to tell New York what he thought of doings like those of the Labor Forum at the Washington Irving High School. According to Mr. Ward, if the Board of Education doesn't call a halt, the public schools of this city may rapidly become mere places for the dissemination of German propaganda, Billyhaywoodism, &c.—hotbeds of un-Americanism, with two headed eagles presiding over them.

John Collier, director of the New York Training School for Community Centre Workers, didn't agree at all with Mr. Ward. Nor did any one else agree with him in his contention that the Board of Education should exercise close supervision over the use of school buildings by the public, but he said that the Government of the United States was with him and that he came as its representative.

Mr. Collier said the New York Board of Education exercised sufficient supervision in that it could always revoke a permit given to any group of persons to use a school building.

"To 'always have a member of the Board of Education present to oversee when a school building is opened for any gathering,' as Mr. Ward says should be done, would rob the community centre movement of its democracy," said Mr. Collier. "Unless a community centre is supported and managed by the people it isn't a community centre at all."

Charles A. Beard, professor of politics at Columbia University, accused Mr. Ward of rank paternalism. What did it matter, he asked, if a man said "To hell with the flag!" in the Washington Irving High School?

"That doesn't shock me," he said. "If any one doesn't like the American flag better for them to say so in the open than to plot against it in secret. If the mere utterance of the sentiment can hurt a country it's a weak country.

"This Government was born out of disrespect for authority. You can't have freedom without having too much. Well, then, I believe in having too much."

Edward E. Rybicki, labor representative and member of Typographical Union No. 6, served notice on Mr. Ward that organized labor wouldn't stand for any muzzle on its forum or any public school forum.

"I don't know how long Mr. Ward, who sets himself up as an expert, has been in the forum business," he said, "but I do know this, that organized labor will not permit any such theory as he expounds to be injected at this stage of the game into New York city."

The subject to-day, the closing day of the conference, will be "The Community Centre and Medical Service." Dr. Haven Emerson, Commissioner of Health, will lead the discussion.

CARDINAL FARLEY IS 74.

Birthday Passes Without Celebration Owing to Holy Week.

Cardinal Farley's seventh-fourth birthday yesterday passed without any special celebration such as the dinner gathering of his vicars-general and diocesan consulters, which has marked the birthday in other years. Instead the prelate devoted the entire day to his religious duties. Many telegrams of congratulations were received from all parts of the country.

Cardinal Farley in the morning consecrated the sacramental oils which are used throughout the year for the administration of baptism, confirmation, holy orders and extreme unction. This is one of the church ceremonies of Holy Week, always observed on Holy Thursday. In fact, the Cardinal spent a part of his birthday in the catholic churches.

The Rev. Dr. Carroll, the Cardinal's secretary, said last night that his Eminence never enjoyed better health than at present.

JEWS START A MITE FUND.

Every Family to Give 25 Cents a Week to War Sufferers.

Every one of the 600,000 Jewish families in the United States is to be asked to contribute 25 cents a week to the relief of Jews suffering through the war. Some may have to deprive themselves of butter or sugar in the morning coffee, but they are expected to be ready with the weekly mite all the same.

Early to-day little coin cards, with the printed request, will start out from the headquarters of the Committee for the Relief of Sufferers Through the War, in the Building.

The plan was perfected yesterday at a meeting of the Women's Propaganda Committee at the Hotel Astor. Samuel Eikenes, chairman of the committee, presided. Albert Lucas, secretary of the central committee, said $600,000 a month would be required in America. The women present, representatives of various Jewish women's societies, said their sex would be responsible for one-half that amount.

FREE SUGAR REPEAL WINS

Senator Simmons's Motion to Accept House Plan to Prevail.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Following action of the Democratic caucus tonight, which instructed the Democratic Senators to recede from