The Sun.

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Subvention of the Farm Vote.

Acceleration of the work of Congress apparently includes an early approach to a determined deliberation of rural credits legislation and the enactment of a definite law. The House Banking and Currency Committee has finished its consideration of the form of the bill which, both in the Senate and the House, is understood to enjoy Administration favor, and the lawmakers are expected to forward its passage as rapidly as may be compatible with their other engagements.

According to report the measure which Congress will be asked to put through has undergone little but verbal changes since it was first offered for inspection at the beginning of the year. This cannot be regarded as other than disappointing. The legislation which now seems to be threatening provides a rather elaborate financial organization comprising a dozen district land banks, somewhat after the analogy of the Federal Reserve scheme, but the apparatus proposed for providing rural credits is designed to be more distinctly a device and department of the Government than is the Federal Reserve system.

The prevailing idea in Congress today seems to be to set up a financial machine for the dispensation of rural credits which shall be, both directly and indirectly, connected with the Federal Treasury as the assured source of funds and the benevolent supervisor of agricultural enterprise in all its dependence on financial accommodations. Incidentally a conjectural effect of such legislation would be to make of the new financial machine a political machine.

In view of the perennial temptation which besets Congress to coax the farm vote by special legislation, it is doubtful if there is any occasion of superior excellence for enacting a Federal rural credits law. Yet, if one time is worse than another, the eve of a national political campaign in a Presidential year probably merits the opprobrium of supreme unfitness.

A rural credits bill passed then is likely to contain the maximum sum of pernicious possibilities and the minimum of real endeavor to serve the benefit of the whole country. It is likely to promise just as much Government financial assistance to the farmer as can be reconciled with a decent regard for appearances and contain proportionally the least constructive encouragement to agricultural self help. It is likely in short to be not only a proffer of Government subsidy for the farming industry, but an effort at the subvention of the farm vote.

Rural credits can afford to wait a little longer in the interests of eventual safety.

Questioning the Stars.

There are many students of SHAKESPEARE who assert that the Bard of Avon was a believer in astrology. Whether he took that pseudo science seriously or not, the fact remains that his plays are full of references to the influence that the stars exert upon the destinies of men, especially of men who, through individuality or circumstances, tower above their fellows. Were the greatest of playwrights living to-day, he would not be surprised, we may be sure, to learn that the planets are at present displaying an inclination to put the letters "T. R." in large "caps" upon the front astronomical page, featuring them, as it were, against the background of the stellar universe.

No less an astrological authority than WILLIAM DE KELLER, founder of the Occult Club of London, has reached these shores with the startling information that the planet Mars will strongly influence the outcome of the approaching Presidential election and that the name of the successful candidate has been revealed to him as he gazed at the midnight stars.

It is not pleasing to a naturally peace loving nation to feel that Mars may exercise a compelling power at the ballot boxes next fall, but that prospect may be preferable to the astro-political dominance of the Milky Way, under which any ultra pacifist candidate would force the issue at the polls. A people possessing real backbone cannot but consider the astrological interference in the affairs of a planet full of pep and push more to be desired than the lukewarm contact with historic events of remote, amorphous, pussyfooting nebulæ.

It is to be hoped that Mr. DE KELLER will continue, during his sojourn in this country, his perusal of the starry firmament's revelations of the future, as there are many problems agitating us at present unrelated to "T. R.'s" possible triumph through the aid of Mars. Will woman suffrage prevail? Is nationwide prohibition a possibility? What craze is to follow our dancing madness? Is the story of JONAH and the whale to be relegated to the realm of fable? These and countless other queries will be aimed at the founder of London's Occult Club if, upon further investigation, the public becomes convinced that the stars in their courses make answer to his questionings.

Jim Mann, the Wasp.

President WILSON has received from two members of the Chicago bar the subjoined telegram, inspired by Representative MANN's criticism of Mr. WILSON's diplomatic course:

"JIM MANN is a disgrace to the United States and the Republican party and should be impeached on the motion of a Republican."

Mr. MANN is the official Republican wasp in the larger chamber of Congress. He is an experienced and acute parliamentarian; since his appearance in Washington at the opening of the Fifty-fifth Congress he has accumulated a great store of knowledge of the rules. He probably knows as much as Hinds's Precedents itself; his admirers, indeed, assert that JOHN J. FITZGERALD has not a more intimate acquaintance with the procedure of the House. This is disputed vigorously, however, by Representative FITZGERALD's friends. But Mr. MANN's business is to be continuously, uninterruptedly, fanatically partisan, and he is a diligent worker.

The high spot of Mr. MANN's legislative career is the so-called "white slave act" that bears his name. It is a futile and meddlesome enactment, chiefly useful to blackmailers. In it is registered the final attainment of an outburst of hysteria. It contributes materially to bring the law of the land into contempt. The essential parochialism of this measure gives a fair index of the breadth of its author's mental outlook, and its provisions adequately reveal his intellectual limitations. If anybody wants to know JIM MANN of Illinois let him read this law.

At intervals Mr. MANN is amusing. He has an effective stinger. But the habit of stinging has grown upon him until he thinks of nothing else. Consequently, while the description of him furnished by his Chicago neighbors may be somewhat overdrawn, it is founded on the deficiencies of his nature; and these account for the sudden termination of his Presidential boom, which died a-borning only a few short months ago.

New Jersey Day.

Hail to New Jersey Day, which is to be devoted, by the official act of Governor FIELDER, to celebrating and making better known to outsiders the resources and attractions of the Commonwealth that was builded on the grant to Sir GEORGE CARTERET two hundred and sixty-six years ago. The emphasis will be upon the natural attractions of New Jersey, neglected and diffident, its scenery and recreation places, in short, outdoors New Jersey.

The automobile has familiarized thousands of aliens, as well as natives, with rural parts of the State accessible by good roads, but it remains true that of the 5,000,000 inhabitants of New York city, to illustrate, comparatively few know New Jersey except as a breeding ground for mosquitoes that are wrongly supposed to fly across the North River to devastate Manhattan.

To live in New Jersey is to be exposed to the sarcasms of the little New Yorkers who dwell in caves or between heaven and earth like the cliff dwellers. Some of them do occasionally visit the strip of sand known as the Jersey coast, but of the wooded northwestern highlands, mirrored with lakes and extending to the Delaware, the most beautiful part of the State, they know nothing. South of a line drawn from Asbury Park to Trenton there is an inland country of streams and pine forests, secluded, quaint and charming, that is Darkest Africa to most New Yorkers.

New Jersey, overshadowed by New York city and Philadelphia, and restrained by a hitherto invincible modesty, has never put her best foot forward and made her merits known; but she is no longer to linger in the background, play with her apron with eyes cast down, and blush to hear her praises sung by a discriminating few. She will now hear more about them on New Jersey Day, and speak for herself, not overbold and vain, but with consciousness of charm and a natural desire to please.

A Heavy Handicap.

In the annual report of the State Charities Aid Association we find a well founded criticism of the negligent manner in which the immigration authorities of the United States deal with the insane immigrant problem. New York, being the chief port of entrance to this country, is the most unfortunate sufferer from the lax execution of the regulations, which were intended to exclude aliens suffering from mental diseases.

On October 1, 1915, the New York State hospitals for the insane contained 9,208 aliens, or 26.8 per cent. of the entire number cared for in these hospitals.

The report of the State Charities Aid Association points out the striking fact that the State of New York bears the greatest burden in this regard, because a very large percentage of immigrants entering through the port of New York remain in this State. Each foreign patient in our hospitals for the insane costs $210 a year for maintenance. The total expenditure involved in caring for the alien insane in our State hospitals is nearly $2,000,000. If the people of this State were treated equitably the national Government should provide for the care of these unfortunates, and thus save taxation required from our citizens for expenditures which legitimately belong to the Federal Government. The injustice involved in these conditions becomes flagrant in view of the fact that the Federal Government receives $4 per capita tax from each immigrant. Justice demands that a large proportion of the money so collected should be used to reimburse this State for the care of deportable aliens.

That a considerable proportion of the 22,000 feeble minded that are today menacing the State are immigrants goes without saying. Moreover, there is a false notion abroad that these feeble minded are dull and harmless, not being destructive and therefore need not be confined. It has been ascertained, however, that they furnish the majority of criminals, prostitutes, paupers and ne'er do wells who populate our jails, hospitals and workhouses. The tax imposed upon the people for their apprehension and elimination is a serious drain, but a still greater calamity is imposed by the mingling of these unfortunates with the population at large. The malign hereditary influence is obvious.

The recommendation of the State Charities Aid Association that renewed efforts be made to impress upon the Federal Government its duty and responsibility in this vital matter cannot be too earnestly seconded. It would appear that the legal authorities of the State may be competent to enforce the removal of this burden from the taxpayers of the State.

An American Adviser to the Chinese Government.

To untangle some of its legal problems is the task of the American adviser to the Chinese Government. In 1912, soon after the establishment of the republic, YUAN collected a body of foreign experts whom he could consult upon matters especially bearing upon the progress of the country. Dr. G. E. MORRISON, an English journalist who had lived most of his life in China, was appointed political adviser. Advisers in the departments of the army, police, mines, telegraphs and loans were called from Japan, France, Russia, England, Germany and Sweden. Dr. F. J. GOODNOW of Baltimore was selected as the first foreign legal adviser, and it is as one of his successors that Professor WESTEL WOODBURY WILLOUGHBY has just been selected.

Dr. GOODNOW rendered valuable service to YUAN at the time of the recent proposed change of government by his opinion upon the subject of the establishment of a monarchy. This was filed with the manifesto of the "society for peace" and was supposed to be one of its strongest arguments for the change.

The Western mind has considerable difficulty in understanding the codes of social and spiritual life that are such strong factors in determining Oriental action. That the ancient monarchy of the Manchus should be overthrown and a modern republic established in its place without bloodshed was hardly what the Occident expected. That the President of the republic should set himself up as an Emperor and reestablish the monarchy after a few years rule, then candidly acknowledge that he had not enough "virtue to attain the imperial dignity," was decidedly not according to Western ideas. Even the present revolution is a puzzle to the Occident; there is apparently a lull in the fighting and many of the rebels seem to be willing to end the revolution if YUAN, the man against whom they were supposed to be fighting, will continue in power.

Truly "West is West and East is East," and it might well be believed that Professor WILLOUGHBY in attempting to reconcile his Western brains and ideals to modern conditions and codes in China has no sinecure job.

Russia at the Crossroads.

The chief importance of the fall of Trebizond is its effect upon Turkey and its significance as a determining factor in the future of the Ottoman Empire. With the possession of this important point on the sea and of Erzerum in the interior, a port as a base of supplies to replace the long tedious overland route through the Caucasuses and a strong position in the mountains, Russia stands master of a country long coveted.

Trebizond has been for centuries the chief commercial port on the south shore of the Black Sea. It drew its trade from the mountain land of ancient Armenia, from as far east as Teheran and Ispahan in Persia and as far south as Mesopotamia. From Trebizond south through the upper Euphrates valley a railroad was projected to the Tigris.

This road would tap the Bagdad railway near Nesibin or Mosul, and Russia wished to control it. The road would bring her nearer to the zone of British influence and unite her and Great Britain in their designs to dominate the Persian Gulf and the Middle East, it would defeat the Kaiser's plan of absolute control in Mesopotamia and put up Trebizond, under Russian eyes, as a rival to the German Alexandretta. But Turkish mistrust of Russia defeated her plans for the control of this road and an actual entrance into the great Mesopotamian valley.

The importance of Trebizond to Russia thus becomes evident. Its control of the highways places her in position to continue her conquest and to win to herself and ally eastern Asiatic Turkey. Even the peril to her interest can scarcely influence Germany to send at this critical juncture aid to her Ottoman ally. Turkey must fight her own battles. The prestige that she had gained by her successes at Gallipoli will be decreased by her loss of Trebizond.

The Russians will be as adept in placing before the peoples of the East their own glory in capturing this ancient Armenian stronghold as the Turks were in glorifying their successful defence of Constantinople. The Arabs still remain an uncertain dependence of the Ottoman arms. British and Russian assistance in transferring the caliphate from Constantinople to the holy cities of Medina or Mecca could in the face of a weakening Turkey shake their allegiance to a cause with which they have had little sympathy.

So that Turkey's cause, which has never appeared especially bright, has taken on a much gloomier aspect. Victory for her arms seems uncertain; and even victory would be likely to bring her few rewards. Her weak hold on the crossroads of intercontinental traffic cannot be long maintained. An autonomy of small States, one of which may be a revived Armenia, or a division among the Powers, is not improbably her fate. As possession is a point in international as well as common law, the great bear of the north is apparently getting his paws nearer to the warm waters of the southern seas.

The G. O. P. elephant stands gazing in amazement at Mr. FORD's squirrel.

Our living expenses would not be what they are if the high cost of legislating was not so excessive.

There is a great deal more satisfaction in a six inch victory than in one of six lengths. Lake Carnegie will never see a finer boat race than the contest between Dr. SPAETH's hopefuls and Coach HERRICK's veterans. Princeton's glory will never fade. Mr. ALFRED NOYES has a theme for a poem on the heroic order.

Nebraska seems to have more ideas in a day than Wisconsin has in a week.

There is a temporary demand in Washington at present for sour grape juice.

CARRANZA may have his good points as a First Chief, but he is not satisfactory as a last resource.

Marshal VON HAESELER is to be punished for the German Crown Prince's failure at Verdun. If Verdun had been captured would VON HAESELER have received the credit?

After reading the proceedings of the conference on community centres, the Board of Education will undoubtedly build rings in the public school auditoriums and let the conferees fight it out in a battle royal.

Boston has paid $1,040 of the taxpayers' money for photographs of Mayor CURLEY, to be distributed among his friends. Here is a field of municipal uplift in which the Massachusetts capital outdistances New York, but we will wager this city pays more for motor cars for department employees than Boston does.

Legislature ends session: members near exhaustion.—*Newspaper headline.*

To say nothing of the treasury.

Experienced politicians in Washington tell the inexperienced that patronage is a liability, not an asset, for him who seeks votes. Did some wise one tell that to President WILSON and was that the reason the President let his former Secretary of State name his own deserving Democrats to places in Nebraska instead of giving the patronage to Senator HITCHCOCK, to whom by political rule the places belonged?

Will the Hon. WILLIAM ALDEN SMITH of Michigan say to the Hon. ALBERT B. CUMMINS of Iowa, "Well, Senator, the Ford seems to be a self-starter, what?"

A woman in a nearby suburban town paid $20.60 postage on reading matter mailed to British "boys in the trenches." A check for that amount sent to General FUNSTON would buy a pretty lot of smoking tobacco for the boys in the Mexico trenches—the Yankee boys.

He [the President] immediately bought a score card and followed every play of the game.—*Washington despatch.*

And as the Only JOHNSON pitched Washington to victory Mr. WILSON probably marked his score card right, forgetting his troubles.

One theory of the double escape from Sing Sing yesterday is that the Mutual Welfare League arranged it to discredit Warden KIRCHWEY; but anybody who wants to believe that convicts are likely to be overcome at any time by a desire for freedom is entitled to hold to his opinion.

Nebraska's sanity was in the ascendent on primary day.

A Strange Toast.

From the London Christian.

In the course of a recent address Dr. Smellie of the Original Secession Church recalled a curious toast which one of the Scottish regiments quartered at Edinburgh Castle in the early years of last century was accustomed to drink at mess. The toast was: "A clean sword and a dirty Bible." If the sword had to be drawn, it must only be in the cause of honor, for the protection of the weak, for the defence of the helpless. The dirty Bible meant a Bible whose leaves were thumbed and frayed with constant use.

The second condition secures the first; for the Bible is the foundation of chivalry and honor, and the only effectual and enduring antidote to strife between man and man.

ON THE OLD BOWERY.

Pleasant Memories and a Word of Defence for the Old East Side.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Ever a delight to us old fellows, THE SUN takes on new joys when it chronicles the records of the town we knew in the happy past, as in the communications you have been printing recently about the Bowery. They have been telling about the early '70s. I am of a much earlier vintage, but at that time my best girl lived "somewhere east of the Bowery," and many an evening my eager and happy footsteps marked that highway.

There used to be a coffee house just north of Grand street, I forget who kept it, much frequented by chess players. You went there, the best people, German and others, and were served with a pot of the cheering fluid, fresh made for everybody by some sort of a percolating drip pot, with hot milk. I forget what sort of cakes we had—too much interested in my vis-à-vis for such gross details. It was one of the sights of the East Side, but nothing of the "drawr one" style about it. I think it cost only 10 cents.

Then there was Bertrand's in Grand street, just east of the Bowery, where you could get the most delicious French pastry and smooth chocolate. Next to old Bigot's in Fourteenth street (Union Square) it was one of the finest pastry shops in town. Its memory is dear to several generations. Further down Grand street, where East Broadway juts in, there was an oyster saloon. I think Van Name's was the sign over the door. When you took your girl out and treated her there to an "extra fry" with trimmin's of cold slaw, pickles, good bread and butter, coffee and anything else on the bill, she fancied you were some young man, b'lieve me. You had good, wholesome, well cooked food, in a decent place, and at a cost of about what the fawning menial in a present Broadway trottery expects for his tip. Them sure was the days!

If there is anything that makes me wish my old bones were mouldering in the grave it is to pick up some of our local newspapers and read "reminiscences" of old New York from some fresh young guy who landed from Prairie du Chien, Kalamazoo or Tuskegee a couple of weeks ago and thinks he can do a "local color" story for the Sunday magazine section.

An uplifter who anchored at number something Henry street a few months since has incubated a book to tell of experiences there. It begins with an insult to the generations of decent, self-respecting, well living people who possessed the East Side in the past. "Before I arrived," the author has the nerve to say, "there was not a bathroom below Fourteenth street!"

I have waited in vain for some of the critics of the book to label properly this libel on what was, not so very long ago, one of the really best sections of the city in point of genuine, comfortable, well appointed family life. I hope THE SUN will let me, one of its readers for more than half a century, do it now. Eheu fugaces labuntur anni—or words to that effect. In the old days the East Side would not have lacked sturdy defenders from such a shameless and mendacious defamer.

WILLIAM DRYSDALE.
NEW YORK, April 21.

A Fleeting Glimpse of Volunteer Firemen and Theatrical Celebrities.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Let us go back to the good old days on the Bowery of the Volunteer Fire Department, when the Bowery was a very interesting thoroughfare. Then such engine companies as 31 Peterson (the Bowery boys), 4 Eagle, 9 Old Rock, 3 Forrest were met at Chatham Square by 6 Americus (Old Tiger), 41 Clinton, 50 Hope Hose and others.

I hear very little about the New Bowery Theatre, one block from the Old Bowery Theatre, near Hester street. It was destroyed by fire somewhere about 1868. Let us recall the old time actors and actresses, such as the Lingards, George and C. K. Fox, Mrs. W. G. Jones, J. B. Howe, George Boniface, Fanny Herring, Ed Eddy, Kate Fisher, J. B. Studdart, William Winter and William Wally. Such plays: It is a pleasure to look back to "Jack Sheppard," "Jack Cade," "Mazeppa," "Wallace, the Hero of Scotland" and "Macbeth." The pit was 12 cents, and the "grabbing" of checks by the youngsters is one of the forgotten arts.

It is true the Bowery is not the Bowery of bygone days, but that is no reason that the name of the Bowery should be changed. F. W. M.

A young fellow of Yorkville.
NEW YORK, April 21.

Fanny Herring's Limitations.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your old Bowery correspondents are away off in "recalling" Fanny Herring as *Mazeppa*. She never played it. She was very versatile, a good comedienne and could be sentimental, but it required good nerve to be tied to a horse's back and be carried up a rickety runway to the top of the stage.

The character was played by Adah Isaacs Menken, Leo Hudson and Kate Fisher. The first was the handsomest woman of her day and was immortalized by the elder Dumas. She wrote good poetry, was the wife of John C. Heenan, the Benicia Boy (champion heavyweight), and her remains lie in Paris after a life full of adventure, under a monument giving her name and the simple words "Thou knowest."

I used to hang out at Eddy Cuddy's, 40 Bowery, and sometimes at Eddy Walker's "Pig and Whistle," next to the New Bowery Theatre. Any old timer remember them?

At one time there was great rivalry between Fox's Old Bowery and Lingard's New Bowery theatres, and the story went the rounds of two newsboys. One said, "I'm goin' to the Old Bowery. They're playin' 'The Cataract of the Ganges' and got real water on the stage." The other kid replied, "I'm goin' to the New Bowery. They're playin' 'The Forty Thieves,' and got real thieves."

Does anybody remember "Jingles and Old Sport" in the Bowery? I used to travel with him. Lord, what good days those were!

I remember when Buffalo Bill first came to New York and played in a piece called after himself. He had a number of real Indians with him, one of whom, White Bear, was said to have killed a hundred pioneers. Jingles made up his mind to avenge them, and single handed waited at the Old Bowery stage door on Elizabeth street for him to come out and knocked him all over the sidewalk. He was quite a hero after that. AN OLD TIMER.
NEW YORK, April 21.

Better Than a Director on the Cowcatcher!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If every passenger train would carry as its rear car a wooden box car filled with sand, the fatalities from rear end collisions would be reduced 95 per cent.

The saving in the damage account would more than cover the cost.

CHARLES ALWAYS HOLMES.
WILMINGTON, Del., April 21.

Be Silent Now!

Stand voiceless, ye, and wait! The die is cast,
Ye cannot change our fate who prattle now of what can never be.
The present, with its clarion cry, is ours; the past
A sunken bell beneath a silent sea.

Look forward and forget the deeds that were not done,
The words that meant so little in the end:
The cry is "Onward!" with our task begun
To keep the faith that freemen must defend.

EDWARD S. VAN ZILE.

SHIN BONE ALLEY.

Historical Literary Aid Requested by a Musical Researcher.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When I was a boy and young man we used to sing a darky song the air of which had a great deal of snap and go to it, though the words were more or less meaningless. I have forgotten these words except two stanzas and the refrain, but I have a dim memory of other stnazas which I would like to get. The combination of words and air always suggested to me that this was a roustabout song, perhaps used in early steamboat days on the Mississippi River, imported to New York for the negro minstrels, and there changed to suit local conditions. These are the words that I remember:

As I was going down Shin Bone Alley,
Oh, oh, oh,
Whom should I meet but my old Aunt Sally,
A hundred years ago.

Slap Jaw Bone and Johnny Come Along,
Oh, oh, oh,
In came Sally with her hootess on,
A hundred years ago.

I'll fire this trip; I'll fire no more,
Oh, oh, oh,
Pay me my money and I'll go ashore,
A hundred years ago.

Most old New Yorkers know where Shin Bone Alley is, though it is not put down in the last pages of an old directory which I have just consulted. It is no more obscure, however, than Jersey street, Gay street, Minetta lane or Patchin place, all of which are there listed.

Can any of your old readers help me to other stanzas of this old song?

J. HOLBEIN SMITH.
NEW YORK, April 21.

TRADE BRIEFS.

Interesting Facts Concerning the World's Commerce.

Due to the large number of tourists who visit Bermuda the islands serve as an excellent market for souvenir goods. During 1914 the imports of fancy goods to Bermuda amounted to $53,838 and the imports of jewelry were valued at $26,347.

Exports from Shanghai, China, for the United States during 1915 amounted to $33,495,497, an increase of $14,450,427 over the previous year. Exports from Shanghai to the Philippines increased $60,720 in value during the same period, but the exports to the Hawaiian Islands meanwhile decreased $3,938.

Japan is not allowing to slip by a single opportunity to increase her commerce. The Japanese newspapers report among other plans for new corporations the formation of a large steel merger, a new $1,000,000 machinery company, new shipbuilding yards, additional paper pulp factories and a combination of shipping companies.

The price of cement in Peru has increased almost 100 per cent. since the beginning of the war.

The American-Hawaiian liner Honolulan sailed on March 27 from Tacoma, Wash., with what is said to be the most valuable cargo ever booked on the Pacific coast. The Honolulan's cargo was valued at $7,000,000.

The Russian Ural district offers a market for a large variety of goods. Among the articles now wanted are pharmaceutical products, chemicals, machinery, hardware, glassware, haberdashery, leather goods, ornaments, stationery, photographic supplies, sporting outfits, musical instruments and motorcycles. The British *Board of Trade Journal* says of this trade: "The Urals, besides presenting a tremendous field for the investment of foreign capital in mining, are showing a general progress that makes them a promising field for commerce."

The world's total wheat production for 1915 was an unusually good one, amounting to 4,000,000,000 bushels, an increase of 800,000,000 bushels over 1914.

In spite of the proposed revival in England of the cultivation of medicinal herbs there is a big demand for American drug plants. The London *Daily Mail* in an article on this subject says of the growing of herbs: "There are thousands of head gardeners and keen amateur gardeners all over the country who would jump at the chance of cultivating a small plot of some surely needed drug. They have only to know of the need, to know what to grow, how to harvest, and, most important, how to dispose of their material when harvested. The actual cultivation is in most cases no more difficult than the cultivation of good vegetables and flowers. The proper harvesting and drying of the herbs need more specialized skill and care."

The Chinese representative at the Panama exhibition has submitted his report to the Chinese Government concerning the promotion of China's trade with the United States. The report urges the Government to improve the condition of Chinese silk and tea as soon as possible.

The second Brazilian Corn Exposition is to be held from July 19 to 21 at Lavras, State of Minas Geraes, Brazil. It will be conducted by Mr. Benjamin H. Hunnicutt, an American.

Porto Rico pineapple growers are facing a very serious situation. Shipments of pineapples during the remainder of April and through May are expected to run as high as 75,000 packages a week, compared with the maximum of 60,000 packages a week last year. On account of the shortage of ships and the heavy shipments of sugar, steamship companies have advised the growers that it may be impossible to make space for their entire crop.

Cryptic Note From a Seasoned New Yorker.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Fire Commissioner Adamson deserves great credit for his efforts to teach us the proper way to send in an alarm of fire. But all of us are not anxious to "turn the handle and pull down the hook." We should not lose sight of the fact that certain inhabitants of this cosmopolitan town of ours look upon the Fire Department with aversion. Indeed, they consider it in the light of a "conspiracy in restraint of trade."

There is more truth than poetry in the story of a certain merchant. He was advised to keep a number of hand grenade fire extinguishers on hand in case of a sudden blaze. He did so. Some time afterward a fellow merchant paid him a visit.

"What do you keep in the bottles?" asked the visitor.

"Water, of course," was the reply.

"You're crazy," said the other. "Keep them filled with benzine. It pays better."

NEW YORK, April 21. MAC.

Jinks Sounds His Horn.

Jinks doesn't like what people say about the middle West;
He's hearing from his people by nearly every mail.
"It's true we ain't heroic, but we'd do our level best
If peace that's made by writin' notes is on the cards to fail.

"The middle West feels safe enough, and things is on the boom,
But he who thinks we wouldn't fight has got another guess;
The chance o' war don't please us and fills us all with gloom,
But if Uncle Sam should ask our aid we'd surely answer 'Yes.'

"The West was made by pioneers who had a heap of sand,
They fought the fight for liberty some fifty years ago;
Their sons are not just pussyfoots who would not heed the band
When they hear the drums a-callin' and the blarin' bugles blow.

"We're not mere money grubbers, whatever they may say;
The Jinkses of the middle West have got heroic streaks.
We're peaceful when our peace is right, but ready for the fray
When there's shame in dodgin' issues and the nation's conscience speaks."

F. JONES.

WOMEN FOR DEFENCE.

Their Influence a Strong Factor in the Cause of Preparedness.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your editorial article upon the activity of women in the cause of preparedness is a just appreciation of woman's attitude in all matters concerning the protection of the home. As a Southern woman I have learned from the elders of the family how they suffered and sorrowed for the dear ones who were defending their firesides on the lines of battle; how despite their grief they assumed a cheerful mien and cheered their men on to deeds of valor.

To-day the mass of men steeped in business and other material things appear to lag behind the women in recognition of the dangers of unpreparedness as pointed out by patriots like General Leonard Wood. In connection with the subject of your editorial remarks I would call attention to the splendid efforts of Mrs. William Cummings Storey, the president-general of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who, at the suggestion and with the active financial cooperation of Mrs. Simon Baruch, agent of the Knickerbocker Chapter, D. A. R., had the splendid "Battle Cry of Peace" presented before the members of Congress in Washington shortly after its successful presentation in this city. The influence of this production was instantaneously effective among the Representatives of the nation, who had appeared oblivious of the dangers of our state of unpreparedness. DERRYLE E. LAW.
NEW YORK, April 20.

LINKING THE BOROUGHS.

Another Extension in the Transportation Lines of the Greater City.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A much desired and long needed public improvement recently materialized in the form of a surface car line connecting Harlem and The Bronx. Under the conditions that existed before the Harlem-Bronx line came to improve matters, persons coming from the Fort Lee ferry or those boarding 125th street cars at intersecting points paid fares on the crosstown cars, but the privilege of transferring to Bronx cars was not offered to them. Those who desired to reach points in The Bronx either had to pay a second fare on the Bronx cars or walk to their destinations.

There was more or less complaint by men and women affected and agitation was begun to induce the railroad management to run through cars between the two sections. The Harlem Board of Commerce and local newspapers took up the demand and worked hard to have the service put in effect. The new line makes it possible for a person to board a car at the Fort Lee ferry and on the payment of a nickel ride to Bedford Park. Transfers are given to other lines. L.

THE BRONX, April 21.

An After-Note From "Junius."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Nearly three years ago, when matters were threatening in Mexico, I wrote several times in your valued columns as follows:

"If the President has power enough to jam through the various bills which have become laws, he has power enough to put this country in such decent condition of strength, naval and military, as to enable it to resist aggression and punish insult.

"If any international crisis should arise and the country be found in its present weak and defenceless condition the nation will certainly hold President Wilson accountable for whatever disaster may result."

Since publishing this the President has sent the stiffest kind of notes to Germany. What, pray, did he expect to do if Germany declined to listen to his representations? Has he been expecting all along to wait until we are struck in the face before taking the ordinary precautions that sane men adopt when issues of a dispute are in doubt?

To-day we stand precisely in the same condition as we did three years ago, excepting that the inefficient and self-sufficient Daniels has greatly lessened the efficiency of the navy.

After months of insult, murder of our citizens, endless exchanges of notes, with the end no nearer in sight than it was in the beginning, if war is imminent we are totally unprepared. Who is responsible? JUNIUS.
NEW YORK, April 21.

For Full Federal Control of the National Guard.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If the constitutionality of the act of Congress federalizing the National Guard be a question whereupon great legalists differ, why should we subject the defence of the nation to the divided sovereignty of forty-eight States?

I move that an amendment to the Constitution centralizing in the Federal Government full jurisdiction of the National Guard be introduced in Congress immediately. W. J. MAHONEY, Jr.
ELIZABETH, N. J., April 21.

Just Criticism of Poetic Geography.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* That is a rather difficult stunt, even for a patriotic mountain, which Mr. Scollard fixes up for Shasta in his poem "The Drum of Lexington."

To look majestically down on Puget would be about the same as having Mount Washington take a peep at Baltimore on Chesapeake Bay.

Even poetic license could not accomplish that. Maybe he has Rainier in his mind, or, as the jealous Tacomans call it, Mount Tacoma.

H. B. GOETSCHIUS.
HACKENSACK, N. J., April 21.

A Verbal Artist Visits Atlantic City.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the middle of the forenoon the snow and rain of the previous day and night ceased.

Like a plain of many colors, the marshes, town and sea stretched from the dull blue hills of the western horizon to the dull blue uplifted rim of the eastern ocean—the dun yellow of the marshes with their leaden gray pools, the varieties of colors and shapes of the town, the dark gray sea. And over all heavy blackish gray clouds, except southeast, where the sunlight through thinner clouds made bright patches reflecting intense white streaks far off shore on the dark sea.

On the inner bar the transfused light turned the hollow fronts of the breakers to live black green under white crests, breaking and rushing in white foam down the green billows and over the dark gray sea. DAVID WALBRO.
ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., April 21.

Non-Political Appeal to the Foremost Faunal Naturalist.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* May I through THE SUN call the attention of T. R. to the fact that the "Bugbirds" have returned to Staten Island? What I wish to know is, is this a sign of spring?

THE BRONX, April 21. FLATBUSH.

In *Harper's Magazine* for May begins a posthumous romance by Mark Twain; there are also eight short stories and four poems. E. M. Royle contributes memories of Edwin Booth, A. B. Paine motors through the Jura mountains, C. W. Beebe describes Mongols, Elizabeth Sears writes about the Kansas farmer and William Allen White about the Kansas editor, R. Le Gallienne contemplates nature and E. Huntington applies his climate theories to Death Valley.

HAS NEW FIELD FOR WRECKER OF BANKS

Burdette Lewis Would Have Him Restore Abandoned Farms and Such.

WANTS BRAINS UTILIZED

If Burdette G. Lewis, Commissioner of Correction, had his way Henry Siegel would never be sent to prison. He would be left at large, sentenced to use his brain for the public weal. Physicians convicted of selling "dope" instead of wasting their knowledge of drugs in a Sing Sing cell, would be employed in fighting the mosquito evil or tracing the typhoid germ to its lair. Mr. Lewis expounded his theory at the afternoon session of the Community Centres conference at the Hotel Astor yesterday.

"A certain man who was clever enough to wreck a big bank and rob a great many persons was imprisoned for a year," he said. [He didn't mention Siegel's name, but said afterward it was Seigel he meant.] "That sentence was sheer waste of good material. This man was needed outside. There is the scheme for making use of the abandoned farms to relieve the congestion in cities. It's a good scheme, but lacks a business head. Our bank wrecker put on probation would have made an admirable head.

"There are doctors enough in Sing Sing to put every mosquito in this State out of commission, if their talents could be employed that way. But our conservative public demands that offenders must be punished and has an idea that to shut them up constitutes punishment. It doesn't. It would be far worse punishment in many cases to make the convicted man mingle with his fellows, under proper supervision of course. I would extend the probation system to include all environmental criminals."

It wasn't until afternoon that the delegates to the conference got calmed down sufficiently to listen to speeches. The flames of Thursday's dispute over whether the school buildings should be given over to a public which couldn't be trusted not to use swear words about the flag in them still raged. At last a set of resolutions was adopted which should have made both sides happy for each declared vehemently that the side had won out.

But Edward J. Ward of the Washington Bureau of Education, who wants a Board of Education official present at every community centre meeting in a school house, and John Collier, director of the New York Training School for Community Centre Workers, whose slogan is "Trust the People," continued not to speak as they passed by in the corridors.

Mr. Russell, with his æsthetic yellow hair and green necktie much moved by his emotions, asserted in a shrill voice that Mr. Ward should worry about trusting the schools with the people, when he, Mr. Ward, was supported by private contributions, though he posed as a public official.

The resolutions adopted were: 1. Public buildings should be available for use by the people as a right instead of a privilege; 2. Money should be used for the development and maintenance of community centres, 3. Community centres should be administered through responsible public officials.

A permanent organization was formed with Harry A. Lipsky of Chicago as president. President Wilson was made honorary president and Mr. Lipsky appointed a committee of one to call on the news of his election.

WOMEN TO BE DENTISTS

Proposed New School of Columbia Decides to Admit Them.

Another step toward opening all departments of Columbia University to women students was taken yesterday when it was decided to permit them to register for the new Columbia dental school. At a meeting of the executive committee of the general committee of dentists appointed to further the plan for the proposed dental school it was unanimously voted to permit women students to enroll. The question has been formally passed upon by the university trustees.

This action is in accord with that recently taken by the trustees which will permit women to enroll in the medical school in the very near future.

Dr. Samuel W. Lambert, dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, conferred yesterday with the executive committee of the dental school and it is stated his approval was given to the plans formulated by the dentists for affiliation with that college.

WILSON SEES NEW GRANDCHILD

Goes to Philadelphia for Hour With Eleanor Sayre.

PHILADELPHIA, April 21.—President Wilson came to Philadelphia today to pay his first visit to little Eleanor Axson Wilson Sayre, his latest granddaughter, who, with her mother,