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Unbossed Republicans Take Up the Nation's Business.

All the impartial observers who have watched the preliminary movements of the Republican National Convention have agreed on one characteristic of these interesting though routine activities.

This is that so far no boss driving committeemen and delegates before him like a flock of sheep has made his appearance in Chicago or is in sight anywhere on the Republican political horizon.

This lack of a superior force to direct the conduct of the convention is recorded as a calamity by some, as a cause for wonder by others, as a comical development of national politics by others.

As a matter of fact the absence of a boss from the personnel of the Republican political organization on the eve of the momentous convention which will open on Tuesday is a tribute to the independence of the Republican electors, the high standard of their leadership and the capacity of the delegates in the National Convention to administer the party affairs through their own initiative, knowledge and experience.

The Republicans are going to have an unbossed convention.

An unbossed convention may not move as expeditiously as a bossed convention. It may take longer to reach its ultimate decisions than a convention composed of delegates subservient to an individual would take to ratify that individual's orders. It may offer opportunities for heated exchanges, even for exhibitions of bad temper, which would not be tolerated in a bossed convention.

But when an unbossed convention completes its work, and presents the results of its labors to the nation for acceptance or rejection, its platform and its candidates will record the convictions of free agents patriotically devoted to the nation's welfare, acting honestly, according to their lights, and not the selfish ambitions or hidden purposes of a coterie of professional politicians whose primary object is to take care of themselves.

We Are Using Our Forests Better.

In his report to the Senate on the causes of the high cost of lumber Secretary MEREDITH of the Department of Agriculture wanted to show that we have been treating our forests badly and he used striking facts to prove it. Five-sixths of the virgin forests of the United States have disappeared. Only one-eighth of New England's timber remains. New York manufactures only one-tenth of the lumber required in the State. Pennsylvania's lumber cut is less than the amount consumed in the Pittsburg district alone. We are using lumber four times as fast as we are growing it. Two-thirds of the timber left is west of the great plains, one-half in the three Pacific coast States.

But Mr. MEREDITH does not mean that the situation is so serious as these facts might suggest. His purpose is to drive home the lesson that scarcity has not resulted from the use of forests but from their devastation, from our failure while drawing on our reservoirs of virgin timber to use our timber growing land. "We cannot afford," he remarks, "to cut our use of lumber down to the level of European countries where lumber is an imported luxury. We must produce the great bulk of the timber which we need, and we have the resources for doing so."

Secretary MEREDITH might have gone further and pointed out that we have already made progress in the wiser care of our forests. The national forests and the national Forest Service are an example and an inspiration to the whole country. Three-quarters of the States have forest departments of their own as part of their government machinery. New York's forest preserve includes 2,000,000 acres; publicly owned forests in other States cover millions of additional acres. The fire loss is guarded against as never before. There is less waste of lumber in manufacture. Substitutes for wood are used in increasing quantities in building and the industries. The lumber industry itself is going through a partial reorganization into larger operating and marketing groups, a fact which may help in checking waste and regulating supply. Forestry has been made a science taught by the colleges. It has been demonstrated that the returns from timber growing are large and fairly sure, if slow.

All these things indicate that the United States may look forward to a continued supply of the lumber it needs. But it seems equally certain that the cheap and plentiful lumber of the old days is gone for good.

Frank L. Polk's Good Record in the Department of State.

If on the occasion of his retirement from the office of Under Secretary of State the habitual modesty of FRANK L. POLK permits him to survey impartially his personal record in the State Department even he will be obliged to admit that he has completed a chapter of his life of which he can well afford to be proud.

Mr. POLK resigned as Corporation Counsel for New York city on September 16, 1915, becoming Counsellor for the Department of State on the same day. Subsequently the office of Under Secretary was created, and the logic of the situation rather than ambition on Mr. POLK's part indicated his selection to fill it.

During the period Mr. POLK has served thus conspicuously in the Department of State the work of that establishment has been heavy and intricate. That President WILSON has been his own Minister of Foreign Affairs has in no way relieved the departmental officers of the burden of arduous tasks of administration and execution which have grown out of the war. Mr. WILSON's letter of praise sent to Mr. POLK in acknowledgment of his formal resignation is testimony to the amicable relations his tact and discretion made possible between Mr. WILSON and himself. The very general and obviously sincere expression of regret which, upon his decision to withdraw from office, came from others with whom Mr. POLK has had official and personal dealings is the best evidence of the esteem in which he has come to be held in a community quick to criticise and slow to admire.

Mr. POLK has done his best in a hard job, and not the least valuable possession he will take from office with him is the knowledge that his efforts have not been unappreciated by his intelligent fellow countrymen.

The Vatican's Most Important Concession to Italy.

No document issued from the Vatican since the end of the temporal power of the Pope is likely to be of greater international importance or more far reaching in its effect upon the national spirit of Italy than the encyclical which has just been published giving Catholic sovereigns the privilege of visiting the King of Italy. It is a long stride toward removing the half century of friction between St. Peter's and the Quirinal, and it ends an isolation from other Catholic nations which Italy has felt ever since the establishment of the Italian kingdom.

The Papal power in this respect made itself strongly felt in a number of historic incidents. The refusal of Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH to go to Rome to return the visit of King HUMBERT and his Queen to Vienna caused a strain in the relations between Italy and Austria in the early '80s and all the diplomatic skill and power of Germany were required to restore the Triple Alliance concord. Italy broke off relations with Portugal owing to the clerical opposition to the visit of King CARLOS to Rome. The peaceful relations of France with both the Vatican and the Italian Government have at times been threatened by the proposed visits of French Presidents to Rome. The King of the Belgians was unable during the war to pay a much desired visit to his Italian ally, and the measures of King ALFONSO for a more thorough understanding between the two leading Latin kingdoms were never carried out, it is asserted, because of his inability to discuss them personally with the Italian sovereign.

At least twice the effect of the rule of the Vatican respecting prominent visitors was felt in this country: on the occasion of the visit of former Vice-President FAIRBANKS, and later at the time of the visit of THEODORE ROOSEVELT to Rome on his return from Africa. The refusal of the Pope to receive Mr. FAIRBANKS had the result, as it was stated at the time, of "immensely exciting" one of the most numerous of the Church bodies in the United States. Mr. ROOSEVELT in his recently published letters to Sir GEORGE TREVELYAN explains the Vatican incident.

The two persons who figured most prominently in it were the Papal Secretary of State, MERRY DEL VAL, and a man who was in charge of one of the Methodist congregations of Rome. With his characteristic sincerity and frankness Mr. ROOSEVELT spoke of the Cardinal as "a polished man of much ability in a very narrow line, but a furiously bigoted reactionary one, in fact a good type of a sixteenth century Spanish ecclesiastic." Of the other individual he said: "He was a crude, vulgar, tactless creature, cursed with the thirst of self-advertisement, and utterly unable to distinguish between notoriety and fame."

Mr. ROOSEVELT had a real desire to visit the Vatican; his relations with Pope LEO XIII. during his Presidency had been most cordial, and had this able and broad minded man been alive he would no doubt have been received with honor. The stipulation made by MERRY DEL VAL, however, was that the audience with the Pope could take place only on the understanding that he should not "see the Methodists." As Mr. ROOSEVELT explained, he had no desire to identify himself with the man against whom the objection was principally directed, and he felt that if he did so "the Pope would have been entirely right to refuse to see me." He acted in the matter in the only way possible for an American to act: he made it distinctly understood that he would accept no stipulation that would "in any way impair my liberty of conduct to see any one else that I chose." He did not visit the Vatican and during his stay in Rome was the guest of the royal family at the Quirinal.

The present attitude of the Vatican, it is safe to say, is due in a large measure to the changing political conditions in Italy. The Catholics today have a party of their own whose strength was manifested in the last election and in the recent overthrow of the Nitti Ministry. This is a continuation of the policy of Pope Pius X., when he removed political restrictions upon Italian Catholics, permitting them to serve as members of the Chamber of Deputies and to participate in the elections. The voluntary confinement of the Pope within the grounds of the Vatican is the one important survival of the conditions brought about by the uniting of the Italian States in 1870, and it is not unlikely that before many years the "Prisoner of the Vatican" will be only a historical title. The resentment of the Vatican is dying out as the Italian dread of the restoration of its temporal power passes.

In the Memory of Good Deeds, Give!

When it is mentioned that New York has another drive this week it is well to hasten and add, for the reassurance of a drive driven citizenry, that this is the campaign of the Salvation Army. As no relief organization in the war emerged with a better record for genuine good, the generous people of this city, who displayed for the Salvation Army in war time an enthusiasm which cannot have died out, will undoubtedly help the organization to the million it asks.

All the money collected here is to be spent here, where the Army has a field which keeps it constantly busy. It has hospitals, settlements, nurseries, clubs and camps. It is planning new activities in the way of a farm for drug addicts, a boarding home for girls, a longshoremen's club and a campaign for the Americanization of immigrants. As the Salvation Army no longer asks for contributions in the old fashion it must depend on the present drive for funds.

Sad Case of an Old Man of Forty.

Envisage the venerable ancient whose failing eyes have watched the sad procession of nigh on to twoscore years and who with age struck hand puts pen to paper thus to record the impairment of his optics:

"Some twenty years ago as a freshman in New Haven I saw the first performance in this country of 'Florodora.'

"Like many of the earnest students of that seat of learning I saw it many times again at the Casino.

"I was no exception as to the pulchritude of the sextet nor the humor of the Professor.

"Is it alone that twenty years or am I this time the exception in thinking that the much heralded six at the Century would be seated in the extreme rear if the Original should even to-day look at us again over the footlights?

"An overpowering assurance seemed to me to quite utterly fail to make up for a most apparent lack of either charm or beauty.

"1903 S.

"NEW YORK, June 4."

How years have stricken him! Even his once sure grasp on the infinitive is relaxed. Men do not look to Sheff for literature, but within its walls youth does learn what is English. Only in their sere and yellow do the scientific sons of Yale lose their grip on the elementary rights and privileges of the mother tongue.

This surrender to slovenliness in language is merely an incidental symptom of the mental and moral disintegration pathetically disclosed in this confession of anility. The pathology of the case is simple and distressingly familiar. The gentleman dwells in a golden age created by his own memory. The limitations and weaknesses imposed by long years on his once sturdy frame and vigorous intellect blind him to the glories of the present. His sight is dimmed. His disposition is soured. He can praise the long ago yesterday of his active career only by disparaging the to-day of his senescence.

How beautiful, how winning, how admirable and adorable in every way was that sextet of this old man's student days! From what isle of enchantment were its innumerable members recruited? For months and years—indeed, until gallantry, nudged by certain parties in the subject interested, suggested its abandonment—the newspapers kept standing the words "who was a member of the original Florodora sextet" to be affixed to the name of the beautiful bride of fortune favored Gotrox.

So much all men to whose education the Casino of another day contributed know; but does that impose on the reminiscent student of art and manners an obligation to do injustice to the present? Certainly not; instead the privileges he enjoyed should keep his mind open and free from prejudice.

Survey, then, the sextet of this generation not with the jaundiced eyes of our complaining correspondent but with the fresh and eager eyes of those sprightly days he has, alas, left so far behind him. Dame Nature has been lavish with her gifts: beauty, abounding vitality, that archness all womankind understands and some women possess—these are their portion; art has not been neglected by them, nor was it by their predecessors; their intelligence is revealed as was that of their forerunners; the beholder looks upon them and knows they are as wise and witty as they are good to gaze upon.

This is the answer to our moody and cankered preadamite. He suffers from an ingrowing memory. We have pointed out that he is very old; almost 40, as we reckon it. He is, in truth, older than he ever will be again. In ten years he will be writing to us that the Florodora sextet of his youth was splendid, that of the days of his present temporary aberration was splendid, but by Jove, sir, the six in the present revival beat 'em all, sir; and then he will not split an infinitive.

In Justice to Nero's Wife.

The Senator who said in a speech on Thursday that the adjournment of Congress would be "another case just like that when NERO's wife fiddled while Rome was burning" was sharply called to order by his colleagues, who did not wish the inopportune musical performance laid at the door of a lady. They were quite right. Whether it was a fiddle, as is commonly said, or a lute, as SHAKESPEARE believed, the offence was great. It is an illuminating commentary on the shadings of public opinion that NERO is blamed for fiddling during the fire rather than for setting the fire itself, although the indictment for arson is more complete, historically, than that for performing the solo. The musical half of the scene may have been worse than is generally accepted, for in some traditional accounts of the blaze NERO is declared not only to have played the lute but to have sung a song about old Troy. He was a bad egg and probably acted as meanly as he knew how.

But his wife must be exculpated until new facts are dug up. She was so busy with the more delicate arts of conspiracy and murder, was POPPÆA SABINA, that she could have given little time to the professors of music. It is bad enough to think that she arranged the deaths of NERO's mother and his first wife without bringing the fiddling scandal upon her. NERO was the confirmed performer of the family, with all the faults of the amateur actor. It is possible to think of POPPÆA, in spite of her wickedness, protesting against the awfulness of her husband's playing; and when we read that her death was the result of NERO's kicking, the suspicion is unavoidable that he kicked her because she told him the truth about his ineptitude with the fiddle, the lute, the ukulele, or whatever the device of torture was. In the incident of the great fire with instrumental accompaniment NERO's wife must be above suspicion.

A careless highwayman forgot his revolver while robbing a cigar shop and was obliged to return to the scene of his activities to recover it. He was greatly irritated by his misadventure, and feels it would have been only the polite thing for his victim to send the gun around to him.

Rum sellers getting rich in Scranton. —*Newspaper headline.*

So too they are in other communities favored by lax enforcement of the Volstead act. Perhaps we shall see a day when a portion of the population will be distinguished as the bootlegger aristocracy.

Obscurity is not often valuable in politics, but some of the candidates probably wish that they could step back into the shadows where the dark horses are munching hay.

Fifteen prospective brides at Ellis Island can be married to their soldier sweethearts if the bill waiving the literacy test as applied to intended brides of American soldiers is signed by President WILSON. The bill, drawn up to meet an emergency which has existed since the war, has been passed by both houses of Congress.—THE EVENING SUN.

The section of the immigration law imposing the literacy test should be repealed for everybody. It is a senseless, useless enactment. But if its supporters are not willing to let the country have an intelligent immigration law, even they should at least welcome the act of justice contemplated in this measure for the relief of these unhappy women and the men who want to wed them.

How can the railroad clerks who have gone on strike in the South expect sympathy from a public whose supply of Georgia peaches they threaten to curtail?

A great many residents of New York did not rush out last evening to get the Census Bureau's count of noses, they having been convinced by experience on city transportation lines that too many persons live here.

The row in the Actors Equity Association proves that among theatrical persons temperament is not reserved exclusively for dealings with managers.

The people of the Virgin Isles have appealed for books. The effect of American sovereignty on the islanders is manifest; they time their request for help so that it falls within the period covered by the American Library Association's campaign for books for everybody.

Whiskey is so plentiful in some parts of New York that even a Federal agent for the enforcement of the Volstead act can find it.

The Rustic Viewpoint.

First Commuter's Wife—What's this Suburban Handicap I hear about?

Second Ditto—I guess it's the high cost of hop vines.

THE LOVE OF CHANGE.

An American Passion Which the Frenchman Does Not Share.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: With regard to your interesting article on M. Brieux's new play, "Les Américains Chez Nous," I think it is hardly possible for the French to understand Americans or vice versa. You see their attitudes or viewpoints in general are so different. Nothing illustrates this better than the matter of change.

Apart from politics the Frenchman hates change. He is a dyed in the wool conservative, devoted to old dwellings, old scenes or associations, old manners and customs, old friends, old wine.

The American, on the contrary, loves change, even for its own sake. Nothing gives him greater pleasure than to shift from place to place, to tear down a building or rearrange an interior, to uproot a landscape, to abandon one occupation and take up another, to discard old modes of expression and invent new ones; in brief, behold him doing away overnight, as one may say, with a world old custom, namely, that of drinking. This he calls progress, and perhaps it is, of a sort at least, but it indicates a spirit of unrest and discontent. I think, therefore, it may be truly said that when it comes to enjoying life—and after all that is the main thing—the Frenchman has by far the best of it.

STRINUS.

NEW YORK, June 5.

THE RIGHT TO WORK.

A Great Issue With Which the Conventions Come Face to Face.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: Mr. Edward Gibson's letter presents with admirable clarity the most important question at issue before the American people in the present campaign, despite anything that may be said by any politician or party leader in or out of the White House.

Whether or not we are to indorse the Republican or the Democratic party in November; whether prohibition or the League of Nations or a new and untried foreign policy is to be approved by popular vote—any one or all of these may well be relegated to second place while we are considering the construction to place on the first affirmative law promulgated to mankind: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

It is claimed as a right that a man may refuse to work. Perhaps it is not worth while to argue about that, though there is a corollary involved by reason of the physical necessity of eating. Whether to eat or not, however, is a question which should be left entirely to the man who refuses to work. Properly speaking it is of no concern to any one else.

"Any man has the right to refuse to work."

It is a plausible catch phrase on which so-called labor leaders of the Gompers school have fabricated a theory which the whole American people are trying to work out, because it involves the comfort and the well being, if not the actual livelihood, of the entire people.

Many years ago I accepted another phrase as authoritative. It is equally brief, equally comprehensive, and to me at least equally satisfactory. It is "One man's rights end where another man's rights begin."

Let us see how the two work out together.

A job is to be done. It is necessary to the welfare of the public that it be done.

A, B, C, D and all their fellows excepting Z refuse to do it.

Very well. Perhaps they are within their rights, but Z is willing to undertake the job. What are his rights?

Here begins confusion of thought. More than forty years ago as a cub reporter I brought into a newspaper office a story of Z. He was a bricklayer and belonged to a labor union which was on strike, but he had a family and wanted them to eat, so he went to work. Other members of the union went to his home, broke in and killed him in the presence of his family.

It was a good story and I knew it to be true, but the city editor looked grave and shook his head.

"We will not print it," he said. "These fellows are on strike and we must stand by them."

In all these years I have been unable to adopt his viewpoint, but I have been and still am surprised to find how many persons look at such things as he did. They deplore violence and even denounce it with unction, but they seem to think that Z paid the penalty for infringing the rights of A, B, C and the others, and fail to see that the others were denying what seems to me to be a right belonging to Z.

In the last analysis, as I tried to say at the beginning, the question here involved is of far more importance than any other now calling for settlement. Mr. Gibson is correct in his statement of it, but I fear he will look in vain to any party leader for aid in getting a settlement.

Nobody, not even the capitalist, wants to destroy the interests or infringe the rights of labor, but that which is of vast and even vital importance to the American people is utterly to destroy the deadly doctrine of Gomperism.

This is not an attack on labor unions but on their methods. It is not an attack on Samuel Gompers. He may be as sincere as many people believe Mr. Wilson to be. But the most sincere advocate of any man's rights may well study the question of opposing rights and beware of overstepping the dividing line.

The greatest issue of the time is now presented. How is it to be treated in the two great conventions?

DAVID A. CURTIS.

NEW YORK, June 5.

Standing of the Farmers National Council.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: In your newspaper of May 31 appeared an interesting editorial article, "Farmers on Our Merchant Marine," based on the vigorous opposition displayed by the Farmers National Council to the Jones merchant marine bill.

The Farmers National Council frequently makes statements concerning agricultural plans and programmes and thoughts back in the minds of farmers which the average farmer resents.

Among the more important agricultural bodies not affiliated with or in sympathy with the Farmers National Council are the National Board of Farm Organizations, the National Grange and the National Federation of Farm Bureaus. In the State of New York organizations which have declined to join the council are the New York State Grange, the State Federation of Farm Bureaus and the Dairymen's League, the largest association of milk producers in the country.

FRED A. HOAR,
Editorial Staff *Dairymen's League News.*

NEW YORK, June 5.

POEMS WORTH READING.

Roger Williams: Separatist.

(The "Apostle of Soul Liberty" was buried on the slope of the hill which led up from the bubbling spring where he first landed. When it became necessary to remove the graves of the early settlers there was found in his last resting place only the spreading root of an apple tree, which in the passing years had acquired a curious resemblance to the human form.)

He was the champion of the wronged
And held the new found world belonged
To those who dwelled therein;
Who took their land and paid no fee,
Though king or serf, a thief was he,
And guilty of great sin.

Forever, held he, separate,
Though side by side, are Church and State,
And unto Cæsar gave
That which is Cæsar's—earth's control
Through laws that benefit the whole;
To God, that which is God's—man's soul,
With freedom it doth crave.

Nor should men be required to take
An oath, taught he, her prayer to make,
Who have for God no heed;
For those but take His name in vain.
A solemn oath will not constrain
The unbeliever's deed.

All that he had he used, to give
That others might more freely live—
In life and death he gave:
For when his valiant soul went free
Whose passion was for liberty,
His dust became an apple tree
Above his empty grave.

Its roots to quaintly human form
Had grown through sunshine and through storm,
Beside the grassy spring,
And its great boughs bent down to shield
The wayworn pilgrim and to yield
Sweet fruit and comforting.

M. E. BURLIN.

The Tide!.

Fate is a thief whose crimes
Have limits firmly set;
We cannot lose betimes
What we have grasped and met.

The ones who have not known
Are victims who attest,
For they can lose alone
Who never have possessed.

McLANDBURGH WILSON.

The Panel in the Wall.

What is our mortal mind's allotted place?
What walks lie just beyond its wonted pace;
This little guarded step it takes around,
As in a safe and gardened cloister ground?

Or ask: Where is the panel in the wall
That, with a spring touched, opens into All;
An appanage without or wall or roof
That yet is siege and storm and trouble proof?

Oh, have we not, long consciously uppent,
Touched, if but once, that spring by accident,
And lo! the freedom of a world unknown
Made suddenly, though for brief time, our own?

Yet say not accident—I did misdeem—
'Twas guidance to the Everlasting Dream
That does this unreality upbrace:
Some Hand helped us the artful spring to trace!

For me a Voice, unheard but felt, arrests:
"Give over all these probings, all your tests!
If you would silent be, then would I speak,
Give heart's desire if you would cease to seek:

"Break sudden dawn (for your lamp's faltering spark!)
And I would wing your Thought unto the mark,
If not so tense the string snapped from the bow
Its arrow must fall short—or overgo.

"Soul! I am Soul—stand ever back of you,
Am both the shadow and light shining through:
And I—but that you freitingly pursue
Your little aims—your deeds, for you, would do.

"I who within you from your birth abide,
Also, past your discerning, am outside,
And transiently I lift your mortal doom
To know beyond your bounden room is Room!"

To each his own enlargement; touch more sure
The artist wins; the seer a sight more pure.
Whose hath known his wonted room enlarge
Turns not again within the old cramp'd marge;
But, if no more, he shall the kindlier live
Whose bounds but once did on this Freedom give.

EDITH M. THOMAS.

Mrs. Maloely.

From Poetry: A Magazine of Verse.

Mrs. Maloely has gone to her rest,
Who scrubbed Manhattan's marble aisles.
She has forgotten, forgotten, forgotten
The mop and broom
And the patterned tiles.

Mrs. Maloely has gone to her rest
In the smooth dug loam, to a rest so deep
She has forgotten, forgotten, forgotten
The unmade bed
And the whiskey sleep.

AGNES LEE.

In Memory.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin.

I've pleasant thoughts that memory brings
In moments free from care,
Of a fairylike and laughing girl,
With roses in her hair;
Her smile was like the starlight
Of summer's softest skies,
And worlds of joyousness there shone
From out her witching eyes.

Her looks were looks of melody,
Her voice was like the swell
Of sudden music, notes of mirth,
That of wild gladness tell.
She came like spring, with pleasant sounds
Of sweetness and of mirth,
And her thoughts were those wild flowery ones
That linger not on earth.

I know not of her destiny,
Or where her smile now strays;
But the thought of her comes over me
With my own lost sunny days—
With moonlight hours, and far off friends,
And many pleasant things,
That have gone the way of all the earth
On Time's resistless wings.

MRS. L. P. SMITH.

Up and Up!

From the Atlanta Constitution.

Climb up high, an' it's fur to fall
An' hard you hits de ground,
But de man who never climbs at all
Can't see de world go round.

Homeopathy Reversed.

From the Detroit Free Press.

Like hills like,
Behold his fall.
The blockhead drank
Weed alcohol.

A Song of the Cumberlands.

When love and moonlight rule the world,
And rich red roses bloom,
And every dewy night uncorks
A vial of perfume,
I feel a sharp and homesick pain
Through all my being dart:
A cabin in the Cumberlands
Is calling to my heart.

I hear the fiddles tuning up
So plaintive and so sweet,
"Dan Tucker" and the "Devil's Dream"
Are stirring in my feet,
And to the strains of "Old Zip Coon"
From dreams I often start—
The cabin in the Cumberlands
Is calling to my heart.

That cabin in the patch of corn
Is ages from Broadway,
But some one's waiting for me there
In twilight shadows gray.
I'm lonesome for the mountain folk
And so I must depart;
The cabin in the Cumberlands
Is calling to my heart.

MINNA IRVING.

FINANCING GENERAL WOOD.

One of His Supporters Explains and Defends His Campaign Fund.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: Much is being printed about the Presidential primary campaign fund contributions and the investigation of these funds by a committee of the United States Senate.

Every honest citizen welcomes and approves such an investigation if it is really a sincere one designed to prevent the collection of funds for an immoral or dishonest purpose.

It would seem, however, from what I have been able to gather from the papers that no real distinction is being made as to the uses of the funds, but simply great emphasis is thrown on the larger sum which has been raised on behalf of Leonard Wood as compared with the funds raised for the other candidates.

Any thinking man, particularly if he has real knowledge of politics, knows that getting out the vote of the country is a difficult task, even for the old organizations, and just so much more difficult is it for voluntary organizations which have to provide headquarters, literature, postage and speakers when trying to bring before the country the name and achievements of a man they believe in.

It will be difficult to persuade the country that its citizens have not the right to do those things and to provide the cost of doing it even if it takes two millions or three millions of dollars, which it can readily do in trying to reach 20,000,000 or 25,000,000 voters of both sexes. That it would be much better to have 100,000 contributions of $1 than 100 contributions of $1,000 goes without saying, but in all organizations, in efforts to help hospitals and charities, for example, there are always a number of generous and high minded citizens who do much more than their share, and without whom it would be difficult to act.

The financing of the war is a concrete example. War Savings Stamps and fifty dollar bonds did not provide the sinews of war; they helped greatly, but served chiefly to show the earnest intention of the poorest as well as the youngest of our citizens.

Because large numbers of men have served in the cause of Leonard Wood and because they have strongly desired to put his name and achievements before all our people it has been possible to raise the money which has been subscribed. Perhaps money has been wasted in advertising; that is quite probable, because many of us are amateurs in political organizations, more is the pity. But for one I have no regrets, nor do I know any that have.

I am proud to serve in a fine cause, for above all things it is an honest one.

MURRAY H. COGGESHALL.

NEW YORK, June 5.

CLASSICS IN THE SCHOOL.

A Plea for Modern Methods in Teaching Latin and Greek.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: At this time of the year when many children are completing their work in the public schools with the intention of entering high schools in the fall the old question arises as to the value of instruction in Latin and Greek.

It seems to me, and there are others who hold the same view, that there is no reason why these ancient tongues should not be taught as are modern languages, to the end that students should be able to speak and write them as well as to read them. I do not refer to prose composition, which as at present taught is of no earthly use to any one. In Roman Catholic schools, more particularly those which train students for the theological seminaries, good results have been obtained, although the vocabularies that the students acquire are more or less flavored with an ecclesiastical element that would be of small use to ordinary pupils.

But some twenty years ago a highly educated Hungarian gentleman conducted in Philadelphia a Latin monthly periodical devoted to a modern method of teaching Latin and developed a series of manuals for use in instruction. Mr. Avellanus had, as it seemed to me, the correct idea, and I wonder if he is still engaged in this work, and if so where. With the awakening interest in French and Spanish, both near relatives of Latin, and with the growth of Hellenic interests it would seem that the time was ripe to change radically the methods of instruction and give us Latin and Greek scholars who know the respective languages as they do their mother tongue.

WILLIAM COOK.

BROOKLYN, June 5.

ORION AND RECRUITS.

A Protest Against the Use of the Twenty-seventh's Emblem.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: As a member for a number of years of the old Sixth New York Division and later the Twenty-seventh Division, A. E. F., I protest strongly against the use of the Twenty-seventh Division insignia by the present members of the New York Guard. It seems almost a sacrilege to allow these troops to wear an emblem made famous by those men who gave their lives in this war.

When the emblem was first issued in France only those considered perfect soldiers were allowed its use. A slight breach of discipline was enough to forfeit this honor. When replacement troops arrived for the division a number of commanding officers ruled that the replacements were not to be allowed the privilege of the insignia.

In camp in Spartanburg and later in France I have seen men considered good soldiers reprimanded severely because their uniform was not to the nth degree of perfection. In camp and in the field it was not always easy to keep their things in shape.

I have seen soldiers of the new New York Guard in all styles of uniform and in all conditions right here in New York, where it is easy to keep clean and in perfect condition. These are the men who are now allowed to wear the emblem.

H. C.

NEW YORK, June 5.

An Obsolete Word.

From the Los Angeles Times.

What has become of that good old word "earns"? Folks are "getting," are "paid" and are "making" so much a day. But nothing is said about anybody "earning" anything.

Limiting Amusements in Kansas.

From the Manhattan Mercury.

There isn't much fun in getting weighed, but that's about the only thing you can get for a penny these days.

Driven to It.

From the Detroit Free Press.

Above the door
This sign I'd nail:
"Don't Ring. This House
Is Not For Sale."

The Sun
AND
THE NEW YORK HERALD.

THE SUN was founded by Ben Day in 1833; THE NEW YORK HERALD was founded by James Gordon Bennett in 1835. THE SUN passed into the control of Charles A. Dana in 1868. It became the property of Frank A. Munsey in 1916. THE NEW YORK HERALD remained the sole property of its founder until his death in 1872, when his son, also James Gordon Bennett, succeeded to the ownership of the paper, which continued in his hands until his death in 1918. THE HERALD became the property of Frank A. Munsey in 1920.

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MACHINE MEASURES READING ABILITY

Shutters Test Speed With Which Eye Jumps From Printed Page.

SOUTH HADLEY, MASS., June 5.—Proficiency in reading may be measured by machine and defects remedied by mechanical means according to Prof. Colin A. Scott of Mount Holyoke College.

Prof. Scott has invented a machine that will detect difficulties that are encountered in reading and help to remedy the trouble. The machine is based on the principle, well known to psychologists, that the eye is irregular in its movements as it runs along a page of printed matter. It reads for a short distance, takes a jump, reads again and then jumps.

Experiments conducted by Prof. Scott demonstrated that the eyes of most persons jump three times in the ordinary newspaper line. In certain cases it was found that the eyes jumped six of seven times in a single line, and the speed of reading was consequently slackened. By means of his machine Prof. Scott is able to change the habit of the eye so that the reading is quickened.

Method of Operation.

A column of newsprint is placed beneath a plate with a narrow slit in the middle, and an arrangement of shutters makes visible but one-third of a line at a time. As the student reads the other sections of the line come into sight. At the end of one line a new one comes into place and the first slip reopens. The machine is operated as fast as the subject of the test can read. If the student be one whose eyes jump five or six times to the line, the eyes are trained to conform their motions to the opening and closing of the shutter, and her eyes become accustomed to jump but three times to the line.

Difficulties in conception are detected in a similar manner by aid of the machine. A girl will read for a short space and then may hesitate over some thought that is presented to her. The temporary confusion of ideas is immediately disclosed by the machine. The shutter opens and closes several times before the student regains her track of thought. In this way the professor is at once aware of any weakness in the girl's conception and can take steps to remedy the fault.

May Supplement Examination.

Prof. Scott believes that it may be possible to supplement written entrance examinations to college by reading tests with this machine. All the student has learned may be tested by her ability to read. The applicant may be set to read various passages containing allusions of all sorts, and any hesitancy in rapid understanding of a thought will denote deficiency in the subject in which that thought forms a part.

The reading machine has demonstrated that different classes of matter are read with varying speeds and the machine has gauged this rate. Editorials were found to be read at the average rate of 200 words a minute, while the ordinary news story is read one and a half times as fast. Students were found who could read as many as 500 words a minute, while others read but 100. The average college girl was found to read 300 words a minute.

Rapid reading is advantageous, according to Dr. Scott, for though the 500 word a minute girl may remember only a third as much as the 100 word a minute girl she may slacken her speed and recall more than the slower classmate or she may read the matter rapidly several times and practically commit it to memory.

Land Fertilized by Volcano.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, June 5.—As a result of the Mount Katmai volcano eruption of 1912 hitherto barren land has been made fertile. The volcano showered the country, including Kodiak Island, with several inches of volcanic ash, which for a time threatened all vegetation. Now the grass has grown through the ash and places that were barren are covered with luxuriant growth. The material cast forth by the volcano is said to be one of the finest fertilisers

EVENTS TO-DAY.

Memorial services for the dead of the Second Division will be held in St. Thomas's Church, Fifth avenue and Fifty-third street, 4 P. M.

Dr. Nehemiah Boynton will preach the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class of New York University in the auditorium, University Heights, 4 P. M.

The New York Letter Carriers' Association will hold its annual memorial service in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Fifth avenue and Fiftieth street, 4 P. M.

Alfred E. Henderson will speak on "Fighting Bolshevism at Home" in North Presbyterian Church, 828 West 156th street, 4 P. M.

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, graduation exercises, Aeolian Hall, 29 West Forty-second street, 2:30 P. M.

The memorial services of the Metropolitan Police Benevolent Burying Association will be held in Cypress Hills Cemetery, 3 P. M.

Rev. William F. Wunsch will deliver the baccalaureate address of the class of 1920 of the Polytechnic Institute at the Church of the New Jerusalem, Monroe place and Clark street, Brooklyn, 11 A. M.

Dr. John Roach Straton will speak on "New York's Disease—The Causes and the Cure," at the West side Y. M. C. A., 318 West Fifty-seventh street, 4 P. M.

The central memorial committee of the Sons of Veterans will hold memorial services for the unknown sailor dead at Dreamland Park, Coney Island, 2:30 P. M.

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