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Jobs, if Not Ships. The Government merchant ship bill in the form in which it passed the Senate bears slight resemblance to the measure that enlisted the support of Secretary McAnoo.

In the debate on the passage of the bill in the Senate so many of its sections were described as inoperative under existing conditions that Senator WARREN asked if it meant nothing.

Mr. WARREN spoke thoughtlessly. The bill provides for a shipping board, whose members are to have salaries of \$7,500 a year each, for numerous clerks, messengers and other employees; and it takes \$50,000,000 from the treasury.

Regardless of ships, these sections arouse the admiration of all true patriots. Whatever effect it has on sea borne commerce, it will create many desirable jobs for deserving Democrats.

A Crop That Has Not Failed. Melons are becoming each year more of a crop both from the extent of cultivation and commercial value.

An indication of this is shown in the estimates from eight States published in the August monthly crop report. Neither California, the chief cantaloupe State, nor Texas, the great watermelon State, is included in this list; yet the increased acreage is estimated at about 5,000, a gain of 12 per cent. over 1915.

Missouri claims that the shipment of watermelons from that State this year will be worth \$4,000,000, almost as much as the estimated value of the country's crop in 1900.

Early reports from the Agricultural Department ignored melons. Now they are classed among "minor crops," along with hops and alfalfa, and listed as "other vegetables."

Scientific farmers speak of melons as "cucumber allies." Who but a scientist would join up the red hearted watermelon with the treacherous, trouble making cucumber?

In official reports melons never reach the tomato in value. United, watermelon and cantaloupe were worth more than cabbage. But what has been chiefly responsible for the increase in value is the improvement in the cantaloupe.

A watermelon is the only thing to be done with it is to increase the size and sweetness of the heart. Growers some time ago believed that the limit was reached in both these respects.

But they are still experimenting with the cantaloupe. The products of a certain Colorado valley several years ago set a standard that every grower has since sought to attain.

More of the melons were good and the chances in favor of the purchaser were greater.

The melon crop is large this year and the supply promises to continue good. In the review of crop conditions cantaloupes and watermelons both have a high average.

The same is true of many other of the "minor crops." There may be some consolation in this to those pessimistic souls who saw only national disaster in the small wheat yield.

Senator Underwood on the Revenue Bill. That the pending revenue bill is, in the phrase of Senator Underwood, "a betrayal and denial of Democratic policies," constitutes the slightest of the reasons for its condemnation.

The Administration has pitched Democratic policies through the window whenever they hampered its plans; neither platform declaration nor his toric principle has survived its continued attacks.

Senator Underwood came nearer to the truth when he characterized the bill as ineffective; it puts a premium on subterfuge and opens the way for evasion. But even this is not the worst that must be said of it.

Its principal vice lies in the fact that it is discriminatory, inequitable and unjust. It is designed to empty the pockets of a few while the many escape without paying their share.

It is drawn to divide the population into classes and feed one class at the expense of the other. It is devised to bear heavily on one section, on certain callings, while exempting other sections and other callings from their

proper share of the burden of supporting the Government. Mr. Underwood's criticism of the revenue bill is true so far as it goes, but Mr. Underwood did not go as far as he should have. We attribute his hesitancy not to ignorance of the nature of the bill, but to realization of the effect of the exposure of all its iniquities, for Mr. Underwood is not illogical, and he must understand what acknowledgment of the whole truth would lead to.

Her Own Labor Union. From Pittsfield, up in the Berkshires, comes the announcement that the servant girls have been organized into a union, under the auspices of the American Federation of Labor.

The membership is already 150 and growing. It promises to include all units of domestic service, cooks, waitresses, parlor maids and upstairs girls. This is the prospectus:

"Members will demand a minimum wage scale and a uniform number of working hours. No longer will they toil from early morn until bedtime with no time off during the day. Under union rules they can work only so many hours daily and must have four hours off, if twelve hours elapse between breakfast and the evening meal."

Pittsfield must be a very different place from New York and the suburban towns. Hereabouts there is no such thing as domestic servitude, except in those rare cases like that of the old darty in the Alabama hills who had never heard of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Hereabouts the freest, most independent, most care-free wage getter is the domestic servant, or maid, as her mistress prefers to call her. The maid of all work, to take the ordinary house worker, is independent even of labor unionism. She is her own labor union. She is the supply that is less than the demand. She needs no previous experience, nor, for that matter, a recommendation. She may be dumb in English, having just landed. Accordingly, with a little coaching from the initiated, she makes her own terms.

Conditions, hours, pay must suit her. She takes a mistress on trial, and the family too, if she comes—and she may not. She makes her own rules, to be observed by the household. The mistress must keep out of her kitchen—the girl's kitchen. No meals served after hours. Tips for company. Presents at Christmas. Evenings out and one or more afternoons in the week. Latch key. Choice of visitors of both sexes in the kitchen, with service of refreshments. Use of the parlor and victricia when the family is absent. Full pay when the house is closed in vacation time. No sweeping the porch or washing windows at any time. The name of mistresses who will testify that the picture has not been overdrawn is legion. Certainly in these parts the domestic servant is her own completely organized labor union.

Islands of Death and Hope. It is more than a quarter of a century ago that STEVENSON visited Molokai and presently gave to the world a lasting picture of a leper colony, "the most distressful country that ever yet was seen," as he quoted. That picture lacked one element which was not visible to the gifted visitor's eyes and which he could have found only by searching the souls of DANIEL'S successors and their charges. This was hope; not the hope of a return to the business of living, but the hope of the life beyond. This element is not lacking in a little story of the leper settlement of Shek Lung in South China, written by the Jesuit Nelson Wilson and printed in the Arc Maria magazine. Because hope is not absent, there is a certain cheerfulness about the article that argues against the blackest despair.

A sampan rowed by lepers took the American priest up the yellow river to the two islands where the French priests and sisters spend their lives with the white death. "A rich brown puppy on the bank barked himself hysterical." It was the first stranger he had seen in nearly a year, except the pirates, who came regularly to rob the priest until the Chinese Government sent a guard of soldiers. The priest in charge, Pere Desvazieres, told Father Boyton how he had come to help the American founder of the settlement, Father Conrardy, and how he had buried him and taken up the task of being king and father and doctor to six hundred lepers who looked to him for everything. Two hundred women and children were on one island; four hundred men and boys on the other. The singing of Chinese boys reciting their lessons came to the visitor. A leper, it was explained, was teaching them to read. And not to write? Father Boyton asked. No, no to write; what was the use? The question reminded the French priest of the kind lady who sent a bicycle to the little leper boys and how, alas! it lay idle. The American understood when he toured the huts and saw the rusting fingers.

Father Boyton asked the Frenchman the inevitable question: "Aren't you afraid of contracting it?" Pere Desvazieres was frank: "Naturally, I do not like it. Who does cure to live in a corpse that should be decently interred? But if he chooses to send it I accept." Then he rose, laughing, from the table and added: "It means so much shorter a purgatory." What chance has despair against this philosophy?

Going to his whitewashed chamber, the visitor found there concealed the priest's Easter surprise for his people from West Orange to Canton; and there is no despair in a good kick. The most heard sounds, like cele-

stial rattles, from the garden, and looked out. "The new moon, a new dollar in the heavens, cut the Frenchy garden in sharp black and white. There, in his Palm Beach suit uniform, paced a Chinese soldier," guarding the lepers from the pirates. Pictures and phonographs in the same part of the world.

In the morning Father Boyton crossed the river in a sampan propelled by a Chinese woman, "who might have been a pirate and very likely was." The pirate said pass in a humble chapel for six Canadian nuns and the lepers. The lepers recited the Rosary in Chinese, aloud. The baby lepers played about the altar rail. The priest called them the "sisters' dolls." All day they ran about in clean pajamas. It would be years before they would know.

On the island of the men and boys Father Boyton viewed the lepers "close up, as they say in the movies." There were boys with just the first flush upon their cheeks—and then the objects that had been men. Some of the boys had on their faces the full realization of their fate. "And yet these little chaps, who already know something of the grave, have not lost the boy heart, as is testified by the collections of trinkets—stones, strings and an occasional picture cut from some magazine published on the other side of the globe. Jim Jennings and Jack Johnson were two of the treasures tucked to the wall above one cot." The priest understood, for he writes that he regretted deeply that he "did not have Mr. WILLARD's photo handy, to bring this young leper sports' heroes up to date."

A Jesuit, on an island in a yellow Chinese river, remembers who is champion of the world even when we who see the sport pages every day have almost forgotten.

The place was cheerful. Where there was suffering, it was patient. The men and boys who could work raised food in the fields. The Père and his helpers sowed the magic seed of hope. "A little while and they will no longer be lepers" was the thought that Father Boyton found among the sick. And that was the thought which STEVENSON, with all his art, did not get on paper.

If General Pershing Marches Back. If General Funston has advised the withdrawal of General Pershing's command from Mexico on the ground that the Villistas have been scattered he has merely followed the terms of the order under which the punitive expedition crossed the border. By the War Department General Funston was directed to organize a force to pursue the bandits who had raided Columbus, to continue the chase until the de facto Government was able to relieve the United States of the task, and in any event to regard the job as finished "as soon as VILLA's band or bands are known to be broken up." The army was not ordered to keep at its task until VILLA was captured or killed; Mr. WILSON proclaimed that purpose for public consumption, but it was not specified in the instructions to the soldiers.

What CARRANZA can and cannot do nobody knows; the only fact established since PERSHING went into Mexico is that CARRANZA has not assisted the American troops. Instead he has hampered them in every way that lay in his power. But when General Funston reports that the Villista forces have been broken up, his statement will be accepted, and the public will wonder what course President Wilson will adopt. He has pledged himself to catch the slippery PANCHITO; but he set out to get a salute for the flag from HUERTA in 1914 and was content to do without it. His unyielding determination to bag VILLA may have melted away under the heats of summer politics.

Meantime if PERSHING returns to the border it will be after completing the duty his orders set for him; and President Wilson will have to explain a not a military failure but another rhetorical explosion.

Major General O'Ryan's Salary. It is asserted in Washington that Major-General JOHN F. O'RYAN of the New York National Guard is in receipt of two salaries of \$8,000 each, one from the United States, the other from this State.

Let it not be said again that the military career offers no inducement to ambitious men whose patriotic longings are restrained by the necessity of providing for their dependent families. General O'RYAN, assuming the Washington report to be accurate, receives a salary higher than that paid to the Mayor of New York; higher than that paid to the Governor of New York. These public servants, it is true, are engaged in purely civilian activities, and it may be held that the compensation of a soldier, who risks his life upon the field of battle, should be higher than that provided for them.

Therefore the comparison of General O'RYAN's pay with that of other military commanders is in order. Great Britain pays a General \$14,000 a year, or \$1,400 less than General O'RYAN draws. A Lieutenant-General in the British army gets \$10,050, or practically two-thirds of the sum paid to General O'RYAN. In the army of the United States a Major-General gets \$8,000, or one-half of the amount General O'RYAN takes in.

It will please the taxpayers to learn that General O'RYAN is adequately recompensed. If any person of sordid mind considers his salary excessive, let him comfort himself with thoughts of the saving effected by cutting the pay of the enlisted men under his command from the \$1.35 a day they

received as guardsmen to the fifty cents for which they serve in the Federal establishment.

Prince buried in a poor man's grave.—Newspaper headline. The poor man probably is glad to wait.

If there is no further need of the troops at the Mexican border, the President might send them to his own temporarily hysterical State to repel those hellish invaders, the babies of New York.

General Bliss is preparing a report on the mobilization of the National Guard, and it is considered possible that he may advise President Wilson in urging that the troops be withdrawn from Mexico, as the consensus of military opinion appears to be that they are serving no useful purpose as at present directed.—Washington dispatch.

What about the consensus of Democratic political opinion? At the same time it must not be thought that in Argentina the North American policy toward Mexico during recent years has been regarded with favor. Both La Nacion and La Prensa, the two great organs of public opinion in Buenos Aires, are of the opinion that it is possible will be done to avert war, by finding that policy weak and vacillating.—From the Evening Post.

Is not Service to Humanity understood south of the equator? At the same time it must not be thought that in Argentina the North American policy toward Mexico during recent years has been regarded with favor. Both La Nacion and La Prensa, the two great organs of public opinion in Buenos Aires, are of the opinion that it is possible will be done to avert war, by finding that policy weak and vacillating.—From the Evening Post.

It is denied that the German Crown Prince has been wounded. The Crown Prince's department of denials must be the most active subdivision of his military establishment.

Care needed to move wheat.—Newspaper headline. What really worries the country is the possible need of men to move cars.

O'Ryan, two big salaries. Any Democratic State chairman who promises VANCE McCORMICK less than 500,000 plurality should be removed from his job.

How enervating must be the climate of Newport, where a Californian is beaten at tennis by a Japanese.

SOARING FOOD PRICES. A Poor Man's Panik if the Brake Is Not Put On.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The way prices of nearly all commodities of living, especially edibles, continue to soar means just one ending, a panic. And it will be a poor man's panik, caused by the big fellows hoisting the cost to the consumer.

The kind of panik who are now living from hand to mouth will be driven to compete with the stronger tradesmen and will be driven to the wall when the struggle comes in the high cost of living. It draws nearer every year.

The meat packers are the great offenders. They have a monopoly in the output of dressed meat, which enables them to control absolutely the prices to the retail dealer.

The commission houses are also largely responsible for the advance in farm products from the garden and farm. If there is a shortage the cost to the family is a hardship, put up, and it is usually maintained at a level where stocks of goods are not perishable.

There should be laws enacted to prevent the cornering of any article that goes to supply the table, such as meat, flour, milk, etc. Fair prices could be enforced and a committee of commission appointed by the Government and enforced through the courts.

In this manner panics would be averted and the business men of small means saved from ruin through manipulation of necessities of living.

CLYDE LUKENS. TOO MUCH POLITICS. A Voter Protests That the People's Interests Are Neglected.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I'll fare the land where public office is bought and the people are sold! I clip this from THE SUN of August 15. It should appear conspicuously on the page of every genuinely American newspaper published in this political ridden country.

There is entirely too great a percentage of "we, the people," making a business of politics and so conducting it as to disgust tens of thousands of self-respecting American citizens, causing them to neglect their duty as electors by absenteeism. "Eternal vigilance" is the only safeguard against "the cohesive power of public plunder"; aye, shameless exhibitions of crooked politics!

Just laws should be enacted and inflexibly enforced clearly defining as a heinous crime the obtaining of an official oath. The sneaking, dishonest business of "You kiss me and I'll kiss you"—I am quoting from Mr. Hughes—would not then be so extensively practiced.

P. K. P. WOODHAVEN, AUGUST 15. Critical Thoughts of a Neutral. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Referring to Mr. Alfred Muller's letter in THE SUN quoting John Runkin's scathing denunciation of the United States when they read it, but I'd be willing to bet \$4 that Mr. Muller would not have called attention to the matter if the manufacturers were arming themselves.

"That would be another horse of a different color," as Abe Potash would say. Still, I may be wrong, and I sincerely hope that Mr. Muller will send a marked copy of THE SUN to Bertha Krupp. I. C. GLEN RIDER, N. J. AUGUST 17. Do Most of the English Women Want the Ballot?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In THE SUN of August 16 you answer Aquilino's question, "What shall be done with the women who have done all their great services in the war no other return can be made them but to vote?"

It can be made them but to vote on them the right of suffrage. Yet many of these women who have done all their great services in the war no other return can be made them but to vote.

How idle are the boasts of one who deems he knows the human heart, it hopes and dreams. He who has never loved, can never know the grief of women when love's last roses bloom.

The valley dweller in his hill-top night. Knows not the wonders of the starry height. And ere the triumph of the Cross can be The heart must pray in hushed Gethsemane.

Amogh Walden Pagan. WOMAN. A New Song of Solomon to Celebrate the Sister-in-law.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The contumacious ratiocinations of that besuiling censor-in-law, "T. P.," in quest of his blonde sister-in-law, are a continual delight. "What a drama follow him, and who does not envy his consistent and persistent thirst, although he does not tell us who pays for the liquor?"

As for the rat and bone and hank of hair he is chasing, I have my doubts that she is, as Voltaire remarked about the prophet Isaiah, capable of anything. Why not? She makes "T. P." go to and fro on the earth and walk up and down in it following a blind trail and in perils often, but not without cheer. To him she is the most relevant and irrelevant thing in New York, as at this hour she is the whole thing in it. I can hear her in "Woman and Hell": "She is a Woman, and, while I am trying to write this, there are 1,500,000 men chasing her, and here's hoping all of them may find her, because she is the strongest moral force on earth and she is the only thing that can save the world from the horrors of the future."

She is a Scotch highball to "T. P." She is a Scotch highball to "T. P." She sticks closer to a brother; the eternal magnet that draws men by a single hair. The words of her mouth are sweeter than honey and smoother than butter in a lordly dish: she is a woman whose apparition sent to be an earthy error.

When you have the right kind of a barrel shotgun into a bevy of quail; not a bird would escape. The entrance to the harbor is 500 yards wide. The harbor proper is three-fourths of a mile broad, about twice that in length, and eighteen to forty-eight feet deep. In a worst case harbor is too small to be valuable for a modern navy.

Resides, our danger is in the West, not in the East. When the great European war ends the contending nations will be so completely exhausted and bankrupt that we shall have no war for a hundred years to come. We would be affording with far more wisdom if we put that \$25,000,000 into building a naval base in the Hawaiian Islands.

OWENSBORO, Ky., August 18. WHY A COCKTAIL? Discussion Drifts as Far as the Nature of Simon Bolivar.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Your correspondent "A. W.," whose letter on the interesting subject of cocktails appears in THE SUN, is correct in his statement that the origin of that drink is far removed from the city of Venezuela, the military hospital of Guyana, of which he was chief surgeon and physician. He was commissioned by the Government of Venezuela, as is witnessed by a document executed by General Paez, then President of the republic, and Sr. Marino G. Secretary of War and Navy, at the city of Valencia on September 2, 1830, as follows:

Your Excellency certifies to the appointment of Dr. Johann Gottlieb Benjamin Rieger as Chief Surgeon and Physician of the military hospital at Guyana, commissioned May 17, 1828, with the salary assigned to appointees of this class.

The son of General Paez, who was a celebrated artist, was instrumental in causing the removal of the military hospital to New York by the Government of Venezuela, a status of the Liberator, General Simon Bolivar, mounted on a charger, which for a time occupied a knoll near the west drive of Central Park. General Paez was a native of the city of Caracas, which later was named Ciudad Bolivar in honor of the Liberator.

NEW YORK, August 19. Playing the Questions Game. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Some questions Mr. Wilson might have been asked in 1912 had the muckrakers favored Taff:

Do you approve of the parcel post legislation?

Do you approve of the rural free delivery?

Do you approve of the work of Taff's Administration for the States' ratification of the constitution of Panama, that will make an income tax possible?

Do you approve of the work of Republican Senators that you will adopt the financial reform legislation?

Do you approve of Mr. Taff's Supreme Court appointments and of the president's adoption by paying the first call on Justice Burton?

Will you give Bryan a post of importance?

Convincing. No! Persuasive. No! Persuasive. No! But they are just as convincing as the famous list of questions to Hughes, which can't be President for four years without doing some things.

REVEREND MICKLETHORP. NEW YORK, August 19. Some Opinions on Statehood. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I have read your article on the new Territory of Alaska and I am glad to hear that Mr. Murphy is going to resign from Tammany Hall. Another year to find the voters of New York State, it is not a bad thing. Nancy and hoodlums can't use him. He doesn't like him.

The people know Mr. Hughes and they are just waiting for the time when the Democrats will come out of the column a day trying to show people how weak Hughes is you can make up your mind that something is wrong with the New York, August 19.

Why Not Leave the Handle Off? From the Pittsburgh Dispatch. The handle of the new traveling bag is so attached that it can be placed in the bag when it is locked, leaving the danger of the bag being stolen.

The Limit? From the Hamilton Journal. White folks are shooting and killing each other far beyond the limit in Colorado.

A LANDLORD'S COMPLAINT. RECORD OF A NON-INSTITUTIONAL BOSTON CHARITY.

Mr. X. is my friend, who enjoys a fortune the income of which amounts each year to the sum of \$18,000. Of this income X. reported to me that he spent \$3,000 annually on himself in diversion of one sort or another, aside from his regular living expenses. Let me say X. is unmarried, has a natural affection for children and is a gentleman.

I reprimanded him for spending the sum of \$1,000 on himself annually, and asked what he gave to charity. Learning that he followed an average course of indiscriminate well doing, I took my friend to task and outlined to him my Boston idea.

A child reared in an orphan asylum is like a chick which has an incubator for a mother. The little one loses that incubation of what we call motherhood. And to take out of each little life that motherhood is the meanest part of present day charity for the benefit of children.

The orphan asylum should be like a clearing house for children, never the home of a child. It should be a real home, with an old fashioned mother presiding, one of those souls in the female flesh that exclude selfishness, sordidness and personal meanness. God bless them everywhere!

Well, how about the Boston idea? Here is a "little" friend, X. sat discussing with me a "little" charity, an eighteen called to his consideration that he annually spent \$3,000 on himself. I then discussed with him the motherhood of orphan asylums, the loss the young endure in charities of that kind and the sin of selfishness in expending too much on himself, a little fruit and an eighteen concern for the rest of God's creatures less fortunate and less favored. Finally I said to him:

"X., you should divert that \$3,000 you spend on yourself to charity, regular systematic charity. Do something worth while. Let me know where you are here. You will be a long time doing it."

"What would you have me do?" was his response.

"Do a piece of practical charity," I pleaded. "First find a widow who has a little brood dependent upon her efforts. Let me say she goes out washing and scrubbing on Monday, leaving the family to the oldest child, or perhaps some old woman, whose ministrations can be secured for a small sum. The widow earns \$1 or \$1.50 a day. On that sum lives the woman and her family. When you have the right kind of a

WHY BUY ST. THOMAS? Facts Cited to Prove That We Should Make a Bad Bargain.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I consider that there is excellent authority for the statements relative to the Danish West India Islands in my letter printed in THE SUN of August 10. And I respectfully submit to my several critics the following:

In Chambers' Encyclopedia (Vol. VIII, p. 44, Ed. 1881) it is said of the island of St. Thomas: "The climate is hot, dry and unhealthy; yellow fever is endemic and preys upon Europeans."

And of course climatic conditions are unchanged.

In Encyclopedia Britannica (Vol. XXI, p. 200, Ed. 1880, and Vol. XXIV, p. 49, Ed. 1911) it is said that in St. Thomas the cultivation of sugar cane had been practically abandoned; that a few vegetables, a little fruit and some of the green groceries are imported from the United States, poultry and eggs from the neighboring islands; that the value of imports in 1880 was less than one-half of what it was in 1870; that St. Domingo, the only island which was purchased in St. Thomas, now goes to the markets of the United States and Europe; that earthquakes are not infrequent, although they do little damage in comparison with cyclones which sometimes sweep over the island. In the edition of 1911, Vol. XXIV, p. 49, some additional facts are given, and the following statements, although toned down a little, are not materially modified.

The Statesman's Year Book for 1913, edited by J. Scott Kettle, LL. D., says that these islands, St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John, are inhabited mostly by a few negroes engaged in cultivating sugar cane; and that the trade with Denmark, formerly considerable, has fallen off in recent years. Imports into and exports from Denmark in 1913 are said to be \$38,000 and \$125,000 respectively. From all of which the conclusion is drawn, that from a commercial standpoint the islands are valueless to us.

If we are, in deference to the Monroe Doctrine, or for any other reason, to rid the West Indies of all alien flags at the rate of \$300 an acre (85,000 acres at \$25,000,000), the cost will exceed \$1,000,000,000.

During the civil war St. Thomas was the rendezvous of blockade runners, and Charlotte Amalie enjoyed a sudden but short lived prosperity. Since that time the commercial prosperity of the whole group has steadily declined. In 1867 Mr. Seward offered the Danish Government \$2,500,000 for them, but the new law of the Danish Government, the Senate refused to ratify the treaty. In 1902 another treaty of cession was signed, by which the United States was to buy the islands for \$5,000,000, but the Danish Government rejected it.

In a letter to THE SUN Mr. Jorntzen qualified the value of the statement of Chambers' Encyclopedia as to yellow fever being endemic in St. Thomas, if conditions are better now it is probably due to what we have shown all the West Indies may be accomplished by field sanitary regulations, such as we saw in Cuba during our occupation and since then in Santo Domingo.

We come down to this: none of the islands, especially St. Croix and St. John, is of the slightest value to us commercially. And St. Thomas is valuable only because its harbor at Charlotte Amalie can be made a naval base. It is not aware that the United States authorities now concede it to be the most strategic spot in the world, barring, perhaps, only Gibraltar.

We live now in the days of dreadnoughts and superdreadnoughts, five to six hundred feet long, eighty to ninety feet beam, with a displacement of 10,000 to 15,000 tons as the Pennsylvania, New York, Texas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, etc., could this little harbor shelter at one time? If a West India cyclone should break upon half a dozen of such warships in that little harbor they would be jammed, smashed and probably sunk; and what would happen to them in case of attack by half a dozen dreadnoughts or ten miles outside pouring 12 inch shells into them? It would be like firing a double

WORK ON THE RAILROADS. They Would Be More of It If Unions Were Reasonable.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Full crew laws and many other laws in the interests of railway workers have been enacted to provide more places for idle men. All such laws hinder railroad development and are a hindrance to the country for shorter hours and higher wages are also a serious hindrance to railroad extensions in many parts of the country.

Such extensions can be made only out of railroad earnings or by the employment of the cash of the Government to invest are already fighting shy of railroad stocks and bonds.

With the handicap of hostile laws and strikes calculated to increase greatly the expenses of the roads, raising money for equipment and new lines is becoming more and more difficult.

Has it ever occurred to any of the brotherhood leaders that the way to provide more work for the men in their organizations is to give the roads larger incomes? It is certain that a proportion would be spent in betterments and new lines. The present law of the Government for thousands of men not only of the roads but in industrial establishments for the manufacture of equipment.

NEW YORK, August 19. M. T. P. Distinctive Qualities of Manhattan Bird-Disorder and Nuisance.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The dirt, disorder and noise of Manhattan may be said to be the dirt, disorder and noise of the city. The dirt, disorder and noise of the city is the dirt, disorder and noise of the city. The dirt, disorder and noise of the city is the dirt, disorder and noise of the city.

"Manhattan borough," says "Old Resident," is simply no longer a pleasant place to live in. Well, then, he will have to leave Greater New York. The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Richmond are not to be compared with it.

Manhattan's dirt, disorder and noise may be said to be the dirt, disorder and noise of the city. The dirt, disorder and noise of the city is the dirt, disorder and noise of the city. The dirt, disorder and noise of the city is the dirt, disorder and noise of the city.

Domestic Declaration From the Edge of Atlantic City. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: When man accused himself of being sober he has generally had a glass too many.

NEW YORK, August 19. The Prisoner. Knicker.—The ex-convict never escapes from himself. Somewhere—No, at best he merely hides himself in himself. He is a prisoner in himself. The Farmer's Union picnic near (dava) was a success. This can be judged from the fact that there were 100,000 gallons of ice cream, sixty-three cases of pop, thirty gallons of lemonade.