The Sun

AND NEW YORK PRESS.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1916.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Month	35
SUNDAY (to Canada), Per Month	20
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 50
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	6 50
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	75
FOREIGN RATES.	
DAILY, Per Month	1 25
SUNDAY, Per Month	05
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	1 00
THE EVENING SUN, Per Month	25
THE EVENING SUN, Per Year	2 50
THE EVENING SUN (Foreign), Per Mo.	1 00

All checks, money orders, &c., to be made payable to THE SUN.

Published daily, including Sunday, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 150 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. President, Frank A. Munsey, 150 Nassau street; Vice-President, Ervin Wardman, 150 Nassau street; Secretary, R. H. Titherington, 150 Nassau street; Treasurer, Wm. T. Dewart, 150 Nassau street.

London office, 40-43 Fleet street.
Paris office, 6 Rue de la Michodiere, off Rue du Quatre Septembre.
Washington office, Hibbs Building.
Brooklyn office, Room 202, Eagle Building, 503 Washington street.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Another Legislative Masterpiece.

The McAdoo shipping bill signed last week is now the law of the land. It is about two years since it was first launched with urgency, urgency and yet again urgency as the impelling force back of it.

We must have merchant ships and have them at once. We were to buy marooned foreign vessels in our harbors. We were to put them under the American flag. They were to be United States ships, owned and operated by the Government.

Private capital would not go into the merchant marine business. It had legislative chains and balls carefully attached to its legs. If it still tried to drag itself along under that handicap, its hash would be definitely settled once the Government entered the competitive lists with its own deficits saddled on the backs of its competitors in the form of taxes.

Then it was discovered that the purchase and operation of the foreign craft would be an open bid for a foreign fight and for that we were too proud. So this provision was eliminated and once more we were kept out of war.

Meantime the urgency plea became shop worn as the months ran into years. It was tacitly abandoned, and then it was discovered that the real reason we wanted the shipping bill was to furnish auxiliaries for the navy. This in turn became more nebulous, until at last sheer pigheaded obsession was the only rational explanation left for the persistence in a measure discredited at its birth.

But pigheaded obsession won. Fifty millions authorized expenditure is loaded on the taxpayers, but what is fifty millions of dollars more or less to a two billion dollar Congress? And then we have the "commission." We cannot buy any ships and we shall not be able to get any out of the shipyards for three years. But deserving Democrats will be appointed to the commission next week and their salaries begin at once.

What more could any forward looking man ask for?

Sentiment and Science on Tobacco.

There are few subjects more frequently discussed than the effect of smoking, the dangers and pleasures of the weed that has beguiled the world of wise men and fools alike. Little or nothing is heard to-day of the dangers, probably because the enormous favorable experience now in evidence in camps, trenches, marches and other occupations of large masses of men engaged in the most arduous tasks ever imposed upon humans testifies to the pleasures. Ask the average soldier what he most longs for and he will say without hesitation "tobacco."

It is not our purpose to indulge in a panegyric on the weed that calms but does not harm, but rather to apply this truth. Some time ago we commented upon the sentimental condemnation by intelligent men like Edison and Ford, and by some unintelligent men who, taking the latter's cues, formed a symposium against tobacco that was made ridiculous by the extravagance and absurdity of their animadversions. One of these, a hospital chaplain, expressed himself as convinced that "the well recognized results of the habitual moderate use of tobacco were diseases of the lungs and heart and alimentary canal, arteriosclerosis and doubled liability to tuberculosis."

A certain Dr. KEELY insisted that "tobacco lays the foundation of every nervous disorder; it produces insanity, epilepsy, bronchitis, asthma, rheumatism, catarrh, tobacco heart and cancer." In the medical text books, however, tobacco is not mentioned as a cause of these maladies.

The physical director of Columbia University was quoted as holding that "tobacco produces pallor, nervousness and poor wind in youths of nervous temperament who lead an unhygienic life and use much tobacco," all of which is probably true, but does not apply to the average healthy student. Indeed, a prominent physician, himself not a smoker, has stated that he rarely found it necessary in a practice of half a century to interdict the moderate use of tobacco, and that only in two instances, and those occurring in the experience of the same individual, has excessive smoking menaced life. He regards moderate tobacco smoking as valuable to minimize the wear and tear of modern life when it is indulged in with the same care as are food, exercise, drink and work or play by sensible people.

Recent scientific investigations confirm this view. Three French physicians, POREZ, CLERC and BULL, experimented on dogs with nicotine, the active principle of tobacco, using the most improved instruments of precision. Poisonous doses, short of destroying life, produced irregularities of heart action, causing stimulation or paralysis when the latter was excessive. They concluded that all these disturbances are of nervous origin and purely functional, disappearing on cessation of the nicotine.

Excessive smoking, like gluttony, is harmful. The fact that the former works immediately is a wise provision of nature, since discontinuance leads to recovery, while the latter tends to produce insidiously organic disturbances which may become irremediable before they are discovered, and may not yield to better counsel and improved habits of indulgence.

The Captor of Jefferson Davis.

Our esteemed neighbor the *Evening Post* printed on Tuesday this letter from a correspondent who disputed the *Post's* reference to General JAMES HARRISON WILSON as "the captor of JEFFERSON DAVIS":

"The *Evening Post* adds no distinction to the General's noteworthy career by speaking of him as the captor of JEFFERSON DAVIS. A body of cavalry under Lieutenant-Colonel PRITCHARD found DAVIS, Mrs. DAVIS and some of their friends encamped May 10, 1865, at Irwinville, Ga., and 'captured' them. General WILSON was then at Macon.

"SILAS BENT."

The *Evening Post* is right, and Mr. SILAS BENT is wrong. Mr. DAVIS was captured near Irwinville Court House, in Georgia, by a detachment of General WILSON'S cavalry. The incident was thus reported to Secretary STANTON by one ULYSSES S. GRANT in his final report of the military operations concluding the civil war:

"He [WILSON] took possession of Macon, Georgia, with sixty field guns, one thousand two hundred militia and five Generals, surrendered by General HOWELL COBB. General WILSON, hearing that JEFF DAVIS was trying to make his escape, sent forces in pursuit and succeeded in capturing him on the morning of May 11."

We suppose this testimony settles the question of phraseology raised by Mr. BENT'S letter.

By Secretary STANTON'S orders Mr. DAVIS was taken to Fortress Monroe, whither General NELSON A. MILES had been sent to take charge of the distinguished prisoner. It is a somewhat singular fact that the two Generals chiefly concerned in the episode of the capture and imprisonment of the President of the Confederacy are alive to-day and are among the very few survivors who held high rank in the Union army.

Why State Rights Are Abandoned.

It has not come to our knowledge that important journals of the country have directed attention to the fact that national legislation has in the past three years, in those laws most boasted by Democrats, abandoned by its general intent and specific enactments the last remnants of the principles of State rights. In the closing day of the session Senator GALLINGER, in a colloquy with Senator OWEN, emphasized this interesting situation, declaring:

"Mr. President, I have several times said in this chamber that I believed I was almost the only State rights man in this body. I have been astounded to see the Democratic Senators one by one apparently abandon the ancient doctrine of State rights, and consent to legislation transferring the affairs of this great country from the hands of the several States and placing them in the hands of the Federal Government."

Mr. GALLINGER cannot have failed to observe the impressive fact that when the hands now in control of the Federal Government were in control of the Government of the State of New Jersey the Legislature of that State pumped out a torrent of laws which required no addition, help or amendments from Washington; and which created a legal quagmire wherein the high courts of New Jersey are yet floundering.

A ruling passion to cure all ills, imaginary or real, by laws was transferred from Trenton to Washington.

The Middle Western States.

Mr. WILSON'S friends, especially his loyal Cabinet, affect to regard the result of the Maine election with composure. They cannot deny that the Progressives have gone back to the Republican party, but they are sure that the Western Progressives are of a different breed. Even our amiable and optimistic friend the Hon. FRANKLIN K. LANE, Secretary of the Interior, assumes that the Maine election was not a fair test of the sentiment of the country. "West of the Alleghanies the country is solid for the President," he says. But are the Western Progressives a different breed? They must have practically abandoned the Republican party if Mr. WILSON is to get a block of electoral votes in the middle West.

In the elections of 1914 there were, strange as it may seem, proportionately more Progressives in Maine than in Ohio. For the Republican candidate for Governor in Maine 58,862 votes were cast, and for the Progressive 18,225. Compare Ohio: the totals respectively were 524,625 and 60,971. WILLIS, the Republican candidate, was elected in Ohio by a plurality of 31,258. The sum of the Republican and Progressive votes was 585,596, and the Democratic candidate received 493,367 votes, or 92,229 less. There is small comfort in Ohio for the Wilson mathematicians. In Illinois there was no election for Governor in 1914, but the people elected a Senator, the vote being: SHERMAN, Republican, 390,661; SULLIVAN, Democrat, 373,403; ROBINS, Progressive, 203,027. The sum of the Republican and Progressive votes was 220,285 greater than the Democratic total. Mr. WILSON carried the State in 1912 by a plurality of only 18,570 over Mr. ROOSEVELT. If the Progressives in Illinois follow the example of the Maine Progressives, or if Mr. HUGHES receives a bare majority of the Illinois Progressive vote, Mr. WILSON will be buried under a landslide.

In the gubernatorial election in Wisconsin in 1914 PHILIPP, the Republican candidate, had a plurality of 21,278, and only 32,560 Progressive votes were cast, the Republican total being 140,787. Maine did much better for the Progressives in 1914. In Minnesota the Progressive vote declined to 3,553 in 1914, when a Governor was elected. HAMMOND, the Democratic candidate, won by 12,574. Mr. ROOSEVELT carried the State by 19,430 in 1912, and Mr. WILSON'S vote was 83,764 less than the sum of the votes received by ROOSEVELT and TAFT. Michigan elected a popular Democrat as Governor in 1914, Professor FERRIS, but the Legislature was Republican by 116 on joint ballot. Mr. ROOSEVELT swept Michigan in 1912 with a plurality of 62,340.

Only 17,329 Progressives went to the polls to vote for Governor in Iowa in 1914, and CLARKE, the Republican candidate, won with a plurality of 30,861. The Republican majority in the Legislature was 62 on joint ballot. In 1912 Mr. WILSON carried the State by 23,506, but was in a minority by 96,299 votes. A Republican Governor was elected in Kansas in 1914 by a plurality of 47,847, and the Progressive vote was 84,060. The Democratic candidate's total was 161,696 less than the sum of the Republican and Progressive votes. In Indiana the people voted for Senator two years ago, and SHIVELY, the Democratic candidate, was elected by a plurality of 45,483, MILLER, Republican, receiving 226,766 votes, and BEVERIDGE, who is now supporting Mr. HUGHES, 108,581 votes. Senator SHIVELY was in a minority of 62,098.

The point need not be pressed that in the middle Western States Mr. WILSON would have to attract a heavy percentage of the Progressive vote, or to win over thousands of Republicans, to place any of those States, Indiana excepted, in the Democratic column this year.

Death of a Famous Biped.

All rural real estate men, professional abandoners of farms and owners of moving vans will shed at least one tear at the news of the death of a titled female who was their true friend. Lady Eglantine was as great a help to the back to the land movement as LIBERTY H. BAILEY or the author of "Three Acres and Independence"; or isn't that quite the name of the book?

This white leghorn hen, which has just passed away in the fullness of years and honors at her Maryland home, was the standard of calculation for all cliff dwellers who planned to accept an easy living from the soil, brown hands of the earth. In her prime she laid 315 eggs. Why she balked unproductive for fifty days was not explained; anyway, 315 eggs was good enough. Therefore 1,000 hens, each laying 315 eggs, would produce 26,250 dozen a year, and as eggs bring 50 cents a dozen or more, there you have a gross yearly income of $13,125. Fie on the weekly salary and a fig for the crowded flat! Ho for the Farms For Sale column and the gaudy incubator catalogue! Is the dry mash system the best, and how does skim milk compare with meat scraps for protein? Ah, Lady Eglantine, what hearts you broke because all lady leghorns were not like you on the nest!

The departed is known to be survived by nine sons and three daughters. Of these the sons are most cherished, for by Mendel's law the virtues of the mother are transmitted through the sons. Perhaps the nine are great fellows, but it is unlikely that they will ever have rooms at hotels, or staterooms in Pullmans, or a monopoly of blue ribbons, as Lady Eglantine had. She was a great bird and the shows will miss her.

Good Riddance to Blease!

The defeat in the South Carolina primary of "To hell with the Constitution" BLEASE, who wanted to be Governor a third time, having failed to break into the United States Senate, must be a relief to all good men in the Palmetto State. Here in the North his hold upon the people of South Carolina has been unaccountable. It was mystifying that even the most illiterate and ignorant persons could take his vaporings and mock heroics seriously. Senator TILLMAN has explained what was the matter with South Carolina:

"CATILINE among the Romans and AARON BURR among the Americans are the only other men I have ever read of who were equal to BLEASE in bamboozling the people. He has persuaded thousands of good South Carolinians, honorable, clean, patriotic citizens, into believing that he is their best friend."

And it might have been added that COLE BLEASE hypnotized them. Senator TILLMAN implored South Carolinians four years ago to reject the Governor at the primaries. "The State," said the Senator, "has been disgraced in the eyes of the world and its good name made a byword and a hissing." Nevertheless, BLEASE pulled through after a campaign scandalous in its violence and mud throwing. The spell lasted until the present year, when BLEASE, after an interval of retirement, sought the nomination for Governor again. He led the first primary but without obtaining a majority, and it was necessary under the law to hold another, Governor MANNING and the ex-Governor being the candidates left.

South Carolina is at last redeemed. She can now look the world in the face. At Washington she has in BENJAMIN R. TILLMAN and ELLISON SMITH two admirable Senators, and the delegation in the House compares well in ability and character with the delegations from the other Southern States. It will be no longer necessary to explain COLE BLEASE or to apologize for him.

"That's Music."

The keen ear of the correspondent catches every word. He telegraphs from New London:

"'That's music,' is the new campaign phrase of President WILSON. He used it here when a 'lifelong Republican' said: 'I'm for you this time, Mr. President.'"

"Music," in the sense of "fun" or "frolic" or "amusement," has been an Americanism for many years. "I can't say it's musical," said HOLMES or one of his characters; "amusing" was what he meant. "'Tis music to the gambler's ear to hear the sucker squeal" is a less elegant but more familiar quotation.

In Farmer & Henley's dictionary other colloquial uses of "music" are given. One is "A verdict of not guilty." That music would be music to the President on election night. Another definition is, "A watchword among highwaymen, meaning that the person is a friend and must pass unmolested." Is it possible that the Brotherhood chiefs gratefully whispered this sesame to their friend?

Music is important to Mr. WILSON. He has to face it ere he "makes a swanlike end, fading in music."

The word, as he used it, was born in New England, of which one State is Maine. What a tune Maine played last Monday! That was music!

Help me, BRYAN, or I drown!

In the New York *World's* atlas of villainy Maine now appears almost as black as Wall Street.

The "silent procession" of the traction strikers will be accompanied by the disgusted procession of citizens who are forced to walk.

To gloat over a Republican victory in Maine, especially this one, sounds to me like shouting that the Dutch have captured Holland.—BAINBRIDGE COLBY.

Considering that the Maine Democrats have a United States Senator and a Representative in the Sixty-fourth Congress, and that in the last State Legislature the Democrats had a majority of two on joint ballot, the Maine election on Monday cannot be likened to the capture of Holland by the Dutch, except by a Progressive who is in the wrong camp.

When President WILSON called upon the Mexican commissioners at New London he revived old precedents, but did he wave the Stars and Stripes?

The National Guardsmen from Maine who voted on the border failed to agree with the Administration that they are the preservers of the country and the captors of VILLA.

Our regulars got everything on that punitive expedition that Mexico has to offer in the way of snake bites, insect bites and sunstrokes, but VILLA got the laugh.

Japan explains that she never makes a demand upon China excepting in a Pickwicklan sense.

It is rumored that Mr. MARSHALL is to be notified of his nomination as soon as the Democratic managers have proved that the Maine election is negligible.

The railroads earned a little more than a billion dollars in the last fiscal year. Mr. WILSON'S apologists may point out that he gave only 8 per cent. of this to the highwaymen.

When the trolleys are not running, what does the end seat hog do with his boorishness?

Ex-Senator HANSBOROUGH of North Dakota seems to be opposed to Mr. HUGHES because the Republican candidate travelled through the State recently on the Great Northern Railway. He committed the atrocious crime of being seen in the company of President LOUIS HILL.

The Democrats now explain that Maine was merely carried away by excitement.

We fear that when the thumping plurality of CARL MILLIKEN was announced cider was not the only beverage consumed in the rural parts of Maine. And Mr. MILLIKEN is a stanch prohibitionist too.

On his western front the Kaiser is feeling the strength of his enemies and the weakness of his posterity.

Democratic leaders concede that the nomination for United States Senator by the Republicans in Vermont is equivalent to an election in November.—*Burlington despatch.*

Was it not the witty STEARNS of Chicopee who promised to address the Democrats of Vermont if they would assemble in his backyard?

A Bull Mooser full of fatted calf makes an irresistible campaigner.

We fancy that when Speaker CLARK admitted that the Democrats in Maine "got whipped good and plenty" there was no tremor in his voice, no tear in his eye.

DANIELS came, and spoke, and got a judgment all right.

Jury Drinks Evidence.

From the Morning Oregonian.

After the conviction to-day of Andy Vicovitch on a charge of "bootlegging," E. W. Bell, attorney for the defendant, gave notice that he would attack the verdict on the ground that the six jurors had each taken a "swig" at a bottle of whiskey while in the jury room.

THE EVER SOLID SOUTH.

It Votes the Democratic Ticket, No Matter What Its Editors Say.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Having been born, reared and tutored in the South, and having lived all my life in that section of our country, and having watched the temper of the editorials of the leading newspapers of that "sunny land" about shocking incidents, local or general, and the immediately subsequent action of the great body of the Southern people, I was very naturally interested in the editorial in THE SUN, "The Voice of the South."

From the reading of that editorial one of the political faith of THE SUN, not being otherwise informed respecting Southern temperament, would be inclined to indulge the hope that because of "the method by which the eight hour legislation was extorted from a spineless President and a pusillanimous Congress" there is about to be an end of the "Solid South." It is my opinion that any one having such a notion is the victim of a forlorn hope; for the South is imbued with a religion which fixes its politics and does not permit the passionate editorials of its leading papers to swerve it therefrom.

There is no other section of the country where the electorate is more considerate of its own representatives. While the editors quoted are for the most part clever and able men, and while hurling their flame of passion at the President and the Congress wrote much as they felt, yet readers will overlook their ill temper, forgive the President and the Congress before November 7, and rally as in the past. Those passionate editorials, pleasing to the capitalist of the North, who has money invested in the South, will not serve to delude the Southern people from the path which they have so long religiously followed.

M. H. BROYLES.

NEW YORK, September 12.

MARTINE'S CHANCES.

A Prediction That the Senator Will Win the New Jersey Primary.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your Trenton correspondent certainly has the right "dope" on Martine. Among the knowing ones who size the situation up as it is Martine is picked as the winner at the coming primary election, although he is known to be not in high favor at the White House, and although Attorney-General Wescott has the indorsement of the organization because of the known, if not expressed, preference of the President for him rather than for Martine. But the latter has strength with the Democrats of the State if for no other reason than that when the repeal of the toll exemption clause for American coastwise ships was under discussion he did not stultify himself by "doing this for me, whether it is right or wrong," and voting for the repeal.

Having in mind, however, the defeat of O'Byrne for Congress in the Seventh New Jersey district in 1914—and O'Byrne, mind you, was then and still is the secretary of the junior Senator from New Jersey, Hughes, who is a favorite at the White House—I am sure that Wescott would be more likely than Martine to go down to defeat in the election in November if President Wilson should address a letter to him (small chance of Martine getting one) about like this:

May I not, as the time for the election approaches, send you this line of warm indorsement? I hope sincerely that the people of New Jersey will elect you to the Senate and in this way not only do you honor, but also show their judgment with regard to the present Administration.

A letter of similar import was addressed to O'Byrne in 1914. Result: the 3,324 plurality for "Bob" Bremner, Democrat, in 1912, was turned into a plurality of 5,380, a change of 8,704 votes, for Drukker, Republican, in 1914.

CLARENCE SACKETT.

NEWARK, N. J., September 13.

THE DISLOYAL SENATE.

False to Its Trust When President and House Went Wrong.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The pendulum has swung the other way and labor is in disgrace. Thinking people throughout the country are shocked at the way the four brotherhoods held up the President, the President held up Congress and Congress held up the United States, to avoid a threatened strike. The hasty passage of the railroad bill under duress was the crest of the rising wave of "highway" labor. Heaven only knows what the House may do at any time, but the more sensible portion of the community depended upon the reason enthroned Senate, with all its traditions of loyalty to lofty intelligence, to hold in check the less truly House in the protection of the interests of those it represents.

Every employer should demand of his Senator to know if he in the future intends to vote for a bill that would dictate the pay of the employees in his private business.

What about the "recall" the people were so keen about a short while back? Let us recall representatives who sell us, and clean up the Augean stables.

SOLD.

RDMORE, Pa., September 13.

Politics Posing as Grammar.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is the grammar in the following sentence correct:

"The English king is the servant of the people; the American President is the people's boss."

Can you crack this? NUTMEG.

TORRINGTON, Conn., September 13.

More Trouble for Jinks.

"I can't believe they tell the truth," says Jinks in agitation.
"Who rise up here in Congress to Villify the nation;
Who say the Carranzistas, the Villistas and the rest
Get ammunition from us—gee, that is a merry jest!
"We're arbitratin' with 'em on a basis most delightful;
That's champagne at New London, but old Villa's actin' frightful;
Our troopers at El Valle are in danger from his guns,
But Carranza's representatives are eatin' of our buns.
"That's somethin' in the contrast that bothers me when thinkin'
Of this Mexican imbroglio—I almost take to drinkin';
I cannot think Carranza is what Woodrow says he is—
And that bandit, Pancho Villa, seems to always know his bix.
"They're drinkin' at New London of wines that are expensive,
But our troopers down in Mexico remain on the defensive;
They know that Villa's livin' and is always on his job—
When I read about New London joys I'm bilious—and I sob!"

P. JONES.

WHY BOYCOTT GERMANS?

A Protest Against a Proposal Not to Trade With Them After the War.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Maryland," who says in a letter to THE SUN that he cannot vote for Mr. Wilson, should not be blamed, but when even Mr. Hughes does not satisfy him he begins to seem like a very hard person to suit. Probably as an "Independent Progressive Democrat," William Sulzer might come up to his ideal.

I am also an earnest friend of the Allied cause, but when "Maryland" talks about not buying anything from Germany or Austria until a reckoning be had, he talks without first thinking. Can a day of sufficient reckoning be had on this earth? A sufficient reckoning for the defenceless people who were drowned on the Lusitania?

Because the Kaiser and his select few have thoroughly disgraced the German nation and dragged principle and honor in the dust, are we to discriminate against the common people who have nothing to say and who must obey the despot? They will have to earn their living after the war; therefore are we, a so-called Christian nation, to refuse to trade with them?

"Maryland" should not judge a nation by the few who are supposed to represent it. The Kaiser no more represents the people of Germany than Mr. Wilson represents the majority of the people of the United States, the only difference between the two being that Mr. Wilson's term of misrepresentation ends next March and the Kaiser's with the war.

ROBERT E. TILLEY.

SOUTH ORANGE, N. J., September 13.

HUMOR'S HALLMARK.

Allegation That It Does Not Rest Upon the Statesmen of Our Pride.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A sense of humor would be a sad load for a politician. For what is the sense of humor but capacity to see both sides of a question? No candidate could afford to possess or exhibit it.

A friend of mine used to say, "There are two sides to every question, and sometimes they're both wrong." This attitude of mind insures good company for your own soul, but politically locks step with failure.

Table the leading statesmen of the country and you will skip whole paragraphs of them before you affix one hallmark of humor. Admirable wits, many of them, raconteurs, adepts at laughter, but a genuine sense of ironic, self-envisaging, philosophic humor they have not! STANLEY K. WILSON.

SWARTHMORE, Pa., September 13.

SING SING WELFARERS.

The System Something Like That Reported by David Copperfield.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I read in the newspapers that Sing Sing convicts have been fighting with "welfarers" who offended them at a moving picture show. Somehow these recurring incidents among the sojourners at the famous resort on the Hudson are beginning to stir "me doots" as to the efficacy of the wonderful Osborne system.

The nobility of soul displayed a few days ago by that distinguished welfarer "Miggles" or "Wriggles," who begged to be locked in a cell for fear that he would take "leg bail" to visit the bedside of his dying father, and who forgot his grief long enough a day or two later to pitch a game against the stock exchange baseball team, reminds me irresistibly of an incident in "David Copperfield."

David, you know, when he had risen to fame and fortune was invited by that interesting old rascal Creakle, his former schoolmaster, and later a magistrate, to inspect "the only true system of prison discipline, the only unchallengeable way of making sincere and lasting converts and penitents." David discovered that the guiding principle of this model institution was that "nothing was to be taken into account but the supreme comfort of the prisoners at any expense." He found that the inmates lived rather better than the great bulk of the honest working community, but "the system" required high living and in short put an end to all doubts and anomalies, reducing the prisoners to a wholesome state of mind sincere contrition and repentance.

But David had misgivings. He found a vast amount of penitence that "the system" had produced, but the professions had a suspicious lack of variation in character or words. There were a great many foxes, but few whom he would have trusted within reach of the grapes. The prize prisoner was our old friend Uriah Heep, in a celestial state of mind, "having committed follies and bearing the consequences without repining." Except that the beef was rather tough Uriah had nothing to complain of, and voiced his belief that "it would be better for everybody if they got took up and was brought here."

"You wouldn't relapse if you were going out?" asked some one. "Oh, dear, no, sir!" And David after his inspection concludes: "It would have been in vain to represent to such a man as the worshipful Mr. Creakle that Heep was perfectly consistent and unchanged; that exactly what he was then he had always been; that the hypocritical knave was just the subject to make that sort of profession in such a place; in a word, that it was a rotten, hollow, painfully suggestive piece of business altogether."

"Perhaps it's a good thing, Traddles, to have an unsound hobby ridden hard, for it's the sooner ridden to death."

WILLIAM R. THORNTON.

BROOKLYN, September 13.

A Polite Invitation to Mr. Gompers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* My abode is away up town and the place at which I earn my living is away down town. If Mr. Gompers will meet me at my home any morning at 7 o'clock I will walk down with him, all the way. He may come up in his taxi if he desires. I will walk back with him in the evening if he wants any more of it. I will not walk to and from the place at which I work if I can get a car unless Mr. Gompers accompanies me. Is he "game"?

I judge from his talk he must be.

SOME WALKER.

NEW YORK, September 13.

The Ancestry of the First Comers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Referring to the letter signed "Madden," the descendants of the earlier settlers of New England are better qualified to know who these people were than late arrivals, who profess to know so much about it. Mr. Greene is right when he says that "many of the early settlers in New England can trace their ancestry to royalty." We have our records and know that what we claim is quite correct. L.

NEW YORK, September 13.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE'S INVESTIGATION OF PELLAGRA.

Experiments Show That Continuous and Exclusive Use of a Single Food Staple May Cause It, and the Remedy Is a Varied Diet.

The Public Health Service has been engaged for some time in an investigation of the cause of pellagra, a disease which has prevailed in the South, in Italy, France, and, it is usually supposed, wherever poverty and lack of proper nourishment have afflicted the population. In its summary of results, which was given to the press last week, the Public Health Service laid emphasis upon the fact that pellagra is due to an "ill balanced" diet, and that the remedy is a mixed diet. The experiments upon which this demonstration is based were carried out upon inmates of two orphan asylums at Jackson, Miss. As they were begun two years ago, and appear to be a sort of supplement to similar researches which Goldberger of the Public Health Service made in the cases of convicts who volunteered for the purpose, it is reasonable to suppose that they are final.

Considered historically there is nothing new in the statement that there is a close affinity between pellagra and a diet mainly consisting of a cereal, especially if this cereal has been deprived of some of its essential food elements known as vitamines. The precise composition of these ingredients of corn, rice and other cereals is not known, but their existence has been clearly proved by the Dutch chemist Eykmann, and the German chemist Funk, whose work entitled "Die Vitamine" was published in 1914. Vitamines are rich in carbon and nitrogen, they are destroyed by great heat and they impart the essential quality of freshness and vitality to foods which are lacking in these attributes.

These facts, which originally were considered more or less hazy, were established by Funk, and have lately been confirmed in some beautiful experiments upon animals by the Italian physician Ramoino. He fed animals exclusively upon a cereal or upon cabbage, and found that symptoms occurred like those seen in pellagra, but that when cereal was added to cabbage, or cabbage to cereal, the animals thrived. An exclusive diet of cereal or an exclusive diet of cabbage was not sufficient to keep the animals alive more than thirty or forty days. The proof here is evident enough. Cabbage is a vegetable that contains some substance or substances essential to animal or human nourishment.

Many suppose that milled corn and rice are injurious, as the process of milling has deprived them of a husk or shell which contains fat and the element called vitamines. But it is found that pellagra occurs in persons who have never eaten rice or corn, and certainly no one in this country lives on corn or bread or rice alone. These foodstuffs possess all their nourishing properties and are necessary parts of a mixed diet, which the Public Health Service tells us is the cure for pellagra. Moreover, the argument that some of the poorest districts of Italy where little is eaten but maize or Indian corn are quite free from pellagra is unanswerable. The Italians, however, believe that maize spoiled by moisture is a cause or at least an invariable antecedent of the disease. This belief is so grounded in the minds of the people and medical authorities that the Italian Government has passed laws for the storage of corn and has prohibited the sale of spoiled maize. There is probably some truth in the theory, if we may judge from the success of these laws in preventing pellagra.

The complexity of the problem of pellagra increases as we closely study it. It is generally held that patients with pellagra were underfed and hence developed the disease. But observers in the *British Medical Journal* say this does not explain pellagra appearing in persons with a demonstrably adequate diet, nor the absence of pellagra in the underfed communities that do not consume maize, nor the periodical outbreaks of pellagra." Other peculiarities of the disease add to the perplexity. Underfeeding would not explain the facts of the distribution of pellagra, why it is distributed irregularly among districts with a uniform consumption of cereals; why pellagra is worse in spring and why patients have relapses long after they have given up corn and have consumed a proper diet. In other respects there is a considerable divergence of opinion. Lombroso, for instance, believed that Indian corn, when spoiled, contained a poisonous substance or toxin, and he tried to inject this into animals to produce pellagra. He failed to convince a commission of the Italian Government. The toxic theory, as it is called, does not explain other peculiarities of the disease. Pellagra has, for example, a definite geographical distribution, the places where it flourishes may remain unaltered for a century; these unhealthy spots are closely connected with stagnant water, and they are infested by a blood sucking insect which, it is suggested, may carry the disease. Without attaching too great a value to these theories the existence of pellagra in Italy in places where stagnant and not fresh running water is drunk points to the possibility that the infecting agent may be found in impure drinking water.

There are still other theories, for it would be difficult to find any mode of explaining the disease which could exclude personal and capricious factors. In Italy for many years the popular notion was that corn, mouldy or sound, was the cause. Then the theory of "auto intoxication," or an abnormal condition of the digestion producing acids in the body, became fashionable. Then some authorities turned to a preparation of sour corn as the probable cause. And now the absence of vitamines or the ingredients in fresh vegetables is to many the acceptable explanation. Undoubtedly many causes must operate to produce so strange a complaint. The human body is a complex a unit for strict arithmetical computation of causes.

Of great importance are the varieties of pellagra. The disease is rife in the Southern States, increasing, the number of cases from 1907 to 1911 reaching 26,000. It is stated that there were 6,295 deaths. Further, there has been a progressive improvement in the precision and success with which the patients are sorted out by medical inspection. Much improvement in the situation may be expected from the work of the Public Health Service. The Federal doctors, after examination of many witnesses, have much careful consideration before they come to definite conclusions. We are wholly opposed to the use of drugs. The physical results of which are on ill balance dubious, but the diet contains a preponderance of maize and an onerous repetition of a single food prove on investigation to be similar to those of pellagra. The most cogent evidence appeals to support this view.

TRADE BRIEFS.

Three wells have been drilled near Muskogee, Okla., with a capacity of 100,000,000 feet of gas a day. Factories in this vicinity will be supplied with gas at the rate of four cents a thousand feet.

A new shipbuilding plant will be built in Jacksonville, Fla. It is capitalized at $200,000 and will employ 300 men.

Dealers in Costa Rica are in the market for American dress goods, clothing, fancy goods, wrapping paper and paper bags.

American contractors are bidding for the construction of twenty-four roundhouses on Mexican railways.

One thousand and five tons of Bar le Duc jellies and jams were imported by this country from the Department of Meuse, France, in 1915.

The train service on the State railways in Chile has been reduced because of the scarcity of coal.

American made telephone and telegraph supplies are being purchased by Guatemala. The Government has set aside $25,571.41 for this purpose.

Switzerland's grain and potato acreage has been increased as a result of the European war.

Glass and nails are in demand in Bristol, England.

During the last nine years 348 homes for workingmen have been erected in the New Zealand Government.

The United States, Canada, Australia and India are large purchasers of Japanese porcelain. During the first six months of 1916 exports of this product have reached the total of $2,492,500.

Exports from Hull, England, to this country in 1915 amounted to $4,004,375. Imports totalled $40,042,014 during the same period.

Tobacco exports from Bahia, Brazil, average 60,000,000 pounds a year. This city also supplies most of the tobacco for domestic consumption.

The United States supplies all coal used in the district of Para, Brazil.

Canada has experienced a shortage of ice because of extraordinary consumption due to the prolonged hot spell.

Norway has passed a law prohibiting the use of wood fuel by seagoing vessels.

The cultivation of medicinal plants is being studied by the Government of Uruguay. The manufacture of chemical products will be increased in the country, and the Government is desirous of supplying raw materials for the new industry from domestic sources.

A destructive hurricane has ruined Jamaica's entire banana crop. There will be no shipments for at least a year.

The Active, Perhaps Festive, Scallop.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Do you realize that the scallop, which your readers are discussing, is not like other mollusks; that it has numerous large and appealing eyes, and that it leads an active life, leaping out of the sand and skipping over the surface? O. S.

NEW YORK, September 13.

Sunset.

I envy not the sun its plight,
It has to leave New York at night.

There positively is no way
That it can get a chance to stay.

Excuses will not carry far;
It can't sit up with some sick star.

It cannot even safely state
That office work will keep it late.

As substitute, when it goes down,
It paints the skies, but not the town.

And then, despairing of all aids,
It flops behind the Palisades.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

PEARL BUTTONS.

The pearl button w[illegible] doubled in price be[illegible] in the Mississippi River [illegible] the shores of Iowa and [illegible] only about thirty years ago [illegible] discovered that there were [illegible] in certain of the [illegible] inlets that live in the [illegible] rivers. Then began an industry [illegible] now stretches along [illegible] muggerhead is most prized [illegible] valves, for it has a thick [illegible] glistening white interior.

The fishermen work [illegible] even through the ice. [illegible] shells are taken from [illegible] and this explains why [illegible] pected the button market. [illegible] shells are brought to the [illegible] are soaked in fresh water for five days and then cut [illegible] with saws. The blank [illegible] ground off and such [illegible] trade requires are made [illegible] ery wheel.

The floods may [illegible] to the industry, but [illegible] danger of exhausting the [illegible]

A Call to Punish Invaders of the People's Rights.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: [illegible] letters printed in Tuesday's [illegible] Surrender at Washington [illegible] Situation Here" and "A [illegible] Writes Plain Common Sense" [illegible] more in genuine American [illegible] to the common everyday [illegible] people, than all Presidents [illegible] wrote. A[illegible] this labor [illegible] is nothing more nor less [illegible] invasion of the inalienable [illegible] American people, and [illegible] never have done her dirty [illegible] put a lot of the invaders [illegible] bars. That free born [illegible] should be compelled to [illegible] coercion, intimidation and [illegible] these conspirators [illegible] their right to earn a living [illegible] standing disgrace of the [illegible]

J. M. [illegible]

NEW YORK, September [illegible]

Enjoying Life on One Collar Button.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: [illegible] is no doubt about it, it is referring to the lock button [illegible] one that sticks in your [illegible] and has been the cause of [illegible] than any other inanimate [illegible]

Two weeks ago I disappeared as usual it disappeared. [illegible] I put on my collar with [illegible] stuck. Ever since that [illegible] tion my emancipation was complete. Consider the [illegible] lic, I refrain. I would need cover the ground.

Help me pass the good [illegible] let one button grow [illegible] before. Let it have the [illegible] Sanction of Society. [illegible] yours, OYE [illegible]

NEW YORK, September [illegible]

Envy in the Zone.

The Culebra Cut—Gee, those landslides are making me jealous.