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Dollar Diplomacy Again.

The relation of the United States to Nicaragua is now similar to that maintained with Haiti and Santo Domingo, but of course it is not the same, as American marines are not at the present time being used to enforce order in Nicaragua.

The American marine was a peacemaker in Nicaragua in 1912, and four members of the corps were killed in the battle of Masaya, where it intervened to capture Zelaya, a rebel against the recognized government.

The political conditions in the country are violently in eruption because there are four candidates for the Presidency, CARLOS C. ABRIL, backed by Diaz, and three others: General CARMONA, the Minister at Washington, now in Nicaragua; JULIAN IBARRA of the old Zelaya faction, and ROSENDO LOPEZ of the Progressive party.

The election occurs in October. There have been some collisions, and the United States may have to intervene in the interest of a fair election. But, worse yet, Costa Rica, Honduras and Salvador are protesting against the treaty with Nicaragua, contending that they should have been consulted about Fonseca Bay and the cession of rights in San Juan River, and they have obtained a decision in their favor from the Central Court of Justice at Cartago.

In the Border Camps.

We like the tone of an article about border conditions which the Seventh Regiment Gazette publishes. Here is no whining about privations suffered, no deep resentment against the Government for ordering the Guard south, no tremulous appeals for sympathy. The climate is "abominable," even "worse than the Philippines in the hot and rainy season," but the regiment is "making the best of it."

Do Free Libraries Spread Disease?

A remarkably elaborate work, statistical, sanitary and medical, on the books of public libraries as a medium of spreading germs has lately appeared in the Italian journal *Annali D'Igiene Sperimentale*. The investigation was suggested by M. PELLETIER, head of the Paris library, and is fully described by Professor FERBANZI, the well known Italian expert in public hygiene. If only Professor FERBANZI'S judgment were equal to his learning his essay would be pronounced a consummate work. As it is we can only say that about half of the statistics, though of the utmost value to students of figures, do not bear any close relation to the main theme, the contamination of books by human hands. It is a truism that there is no necessary relation between statistics and fact. Figures are plain and prosaic, but they are ever at the service of the imagination. This being especially an age of statistics, it is also the age when their meaning is especially difficult to discover. Thus, when Professor FERBANZI publishes pages of figures and tables to show us the birth

rate and death rate of the children of employees of public libraries we may be pardoned for wishing that he had presented the essential facts with less scientific elaboration. It is a matter of common knowledge that books and papers which are much read in public libraries become in many instances excessively dirty. The question whether the germs of disease compose this layer of dirt is a vital one. It seems certain that, in the heat of the day, eleven o'clock to four, men not on duty stay under tent cover. But that mistake, born of exaggerated zeal, was not persisted in for more than a week or two.

For the hospital service the *Gazette* has words of criticism, which prove the good faith of the article it publishes. When a man collapses from illness and needs skilful medical attention and careful nursing, the system is not to be commended. Here complaints are in some measure justified. There is much room for improvement in the regular as well as in the militia service. Still it is to be borne in mind that the sick list is light. Men break down even at home and must receive treatment at a hospital. As for their daily duty, rough and sometimes disagreeable, as soldiers' work generally is, the men of the Seventh have bent their backs and said nothing. The conditions are not much worse than those at Plattsburg, where the June weather was like that of a Texas rainy season and the heat of July tropical in intensity. But who has heard the "rookies" complain?

It seems to us that when National Guardsmen get a coveted opportunity to prove that they have the stuff of first line troops in them the privations of camp life should be endured gamely. They should make light of service tribulations and go through the routine of the camp with the philosophy of the regular. During the process they are soldiers in the making. That is the man's point of view.

The Unity of the French and the British Commands.

There is an aspect of the Franco-British offensive that one hears nothing about, and that is the complete harmony of the armies of the Allies in their field operations. Never before in history, we believe, have two nations fought side by side in a great war without friction, confusion, cross purposes and heartburnings. There have been mistakes and bodily thrusts in the great campaign in France, but nothing was said about them except by critics at the rear, who were more concerned about claiming credit for France or for England, as the case might be, than in doing justice to the commanders and to the spirit of their men.

Ten years ago who would have believed that French and British soldiers would fight side by side like brothers and frankly admire individual prowess without considering the uniform? They do not understand each other's speech, their temperaments are dissimilar, and long the tradition persisted among the common people in England—it had come down from Agincourt and other glorious fields—that a Frenchman was no match for an Englishman. And what is even more to the point, who would have believed that British commanders would cheerfully subordinate themselves to French Generals and execute the orders given with absolute loyalty, indifferent to reputation and fame, or at least conceal their disappointment that the lion's share of the glory of achievement would go to men whose forefathers were defeated at Waterloo?

Drama's Market Value.

The unanimity with which theatre managers have accepted the cut racket during the present season is a striking admission on their part that what they have to offer to the public is worth less than their scheduled price. In other words, the willingness of theatre managers to accept the tariff of the scalpers rather than that which they establish for themselves indicates their concurrence in the public estimate of theatrical values. That is indeed the final test of the price of the theatre ticket. In its latest analysis the question to be answered is always the same. Is there enough of beauty, entertainment, education, excitement or any other quality which the theatre can offer in this performance or that to make it worth \$2? The purchasing power of that sum is well known to all who are not able to be indifferent to money. It is not to be lightly considered.

Who Captured Jefferson Davis?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Miss Dent suggests in his letter printed this morning that President Lincoln could be said to have captured Davis, as Grant was acting under Lincoln's orders. General Wilson was acting under Grant, and Colonel Price under the immediate command of the cavalry that actually made the capture. It will at once appear that some of these writers are in error, as President Lincoln was shot by Booth April 14 and he died April 15, and Davis was not captured till May 10, 1865. Lincoln was buried at Springfield, Ill., more than a week before Davis was captured. In the last analysis it will be found that "Colonel Munger, Company C, Fourth Michigan Cavalry, is entitled to the credit of capturing Davis. See Hay and Nicolay's 'Life of Lincoln,' volume X, pages 271, 272. B. F. H. M. BROOKLYN, September 15.

price, whatever may be said to the contrary. It is not in the least necessary that there should be elaborate spectacles or expensive actors to make a drama worth its asking price. Unpretentious plays with small companies have proved so enjoyable to spectators that there was never the least complaint. But it is not to be denied that there must be something to satisfy the spectator who is compelled to pay the regular rate; else he will remain away from the theatre or buy his ticket from the cut rate office.

Britain's Lost Penny.

One of the financial tasks of Great Britain after the war will be the finding of the Lost Penny. Its pursuit at present has been abandoned because of the need of men and money for the more immediately vital work of fighting, but there is no danger that the penny will be forgotten. The Lost Penny went astray some time in the year that ended February 28, 1915. It belonged in the accounts of the Paymaster-General. The Comptroller and the Auditor-General sought it vainly. They were forced to report that from a balance of £234,700 13s. 3d. the Penny, or, as they wrote it, 1d., was missing. Nothing much was said at the time, no suspicion was cast on the Paymaster-General, and it was expected that the Penny would be found presently.

But when the report of February 29, 1916, came the Penny was still missing and bookkeeping Britain began to frown. To what was the penny coming? In the Conservative clubs the absent copper, or rather its absence, was laid at the door of LORD GEORGE. Limehouse? This would have happened under LORD SALISBURY. After a summer's work of hunting the four fleeing farthings the Government has dropped the effort, not as it did the Dardanelles campaign, but for the time being. It was costing hundreds of pounds of clerks' and examiners' time to hound the Penny; money that was needed for munitions. If times were not so hard the royal auditors never would consent to a trace with a penny. They would get it, even if the colonies reeled beneath the cost. But war has softened them and they temporize. Of course, explains an official at the Exchequer and Audit Office, there is nothing to conceal.

A reporter for the *Daily Mail* went to the Auditor-General with what he considered a fortunate solution of the financial tragedy. It should first be explained in palliation of his office that probably he came from Park Row or Ireland; surely not from Glasgow. He put his hand in his pocket and offered to toss a penny into the Treasury to balance the account. The look he got cannot be put on paper. "It would be highly improper," was the official reply. And every bookkeeper who has tolled into the night because he had added 9 and 7 and made 15 of them will appreciate the justice of the answer. In the kingdom of ledgers no guilty penny may run at large.

Is there anything in the entomological kingdom that has so ephemeral a life as a Greek Premier? The ranks of real authorities upon the currency question have been sadly depleted by the passing of HONORABLE WALTER BAKER, whose was the poorest of mediums ever employed in the discussion of that difficult subject.

The attack by Villistas upon Chihuahua was in the true style of PASCUAL VILLA. It is the strongest evidence yet forthcoming that he is alive. Perhaps it is well for the Mexicans, the Commission at New London that PASCUAL is not lurking in the hills of Old Lyme.

The short loaf of bread is under suspicion of being too short in the ration, and it badly General Gusty seems to be in control. Sound the timber and wake him up. We need more ginger in our campaign in order to arouse a sort of war spirit among certain classes of people that don't listen to political speeches without the excuse of a "business appointment." Start the ball rolling now. We are offering a better opportunity presented for such organization on a gigantic scale as at this time. S. R. S. WASHINGTON, D. C., September 16.

THE HANGED ELEPHANT.

Did Venenace or the Showman's Instinct Order Her End?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Mardelton, our way was without question. She had already taken eight human lives, and was a constant menace. But to hang her seems to me sheer brutality. The huge beast "straggled quite a while."

What was the censor about when he released the news from Sofia that a battle between the Bulgarian-Germans had struck at the heart of the "complete destruction of the Rumanians, who are retreating along the entire line?"

The Land of Lynchings.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I was delighted to read your editorial article on the "Lynching of Murderous Mary." When I read the news report I said to myself: "Will it ever be possible for the people of the South to do anything in an enlightened and humane way? Will they always be savage at heart?" These revolting exhibitions of barbarism which in the South is the order of the day—what is the real cause? Is it the climate? E. H. NEW YORK, September 16.

THE POLITICAL EXODUS.

A Lifetime Democrat Looking for a Party That Will Stand by the Right.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I notice that our Vice-President in his speech of acceptance states that the President has "walked where there was no path and has left a trail." He has certainly delved into darkness where no American has ever dared to go before, and the trail that he has left behind is indeed interesting. In some of the footprints one can find the following legislation, which speaks for itself:

The law applying to the mercantile marine, which has practically driven it from the seas, throwing the little shipping trade that we had into the hands of foreigners;

The law that a labor trust is the only kind that cannot be prosecuted, all this in the face of his plea as "sympathetic" and "advocate" for fair dealing with all the people;

The advocacy of arbitration so long as both parties are willing to arbitrate, and the final upholding of those who are not willing to arbitrate;

The signing of the "pork barrel" bills, such as the prairie plant bill, the law of the grape and the law of the hills, which have practically favored the constituents of our Southern Representatives;

The establishment of a tariff law which will enable our country to be flooded with foreign goods at the expense of our own manufacturers and workers;

The bill which establishes the principle of a man being compelled to have his private affairs made public as a privilege for paying the income tax;

The drawing to the border of the militia from the four States of the Union that pay practically half the income tax in order that the citizens of the remaining forty-four States may be kept at home;

The law which establishes the principle of a man being paid ten hours pay for only eight hours work, which can be most wonderfully worked to the advantage of the employer and the workman by gradually working it down to ten hours pay for no hours work, and then with another Wilson in the chair it might be worked on the basis of ten hours pay for no hours work. This all could be paid along the broad Democratic lines that we are living in now, of 2 per cent. of the people paying the taxes for the other 98 per cent., and is of record according to income tax returns. There is nothing to do but simply overtax the 2 per cent. that have accumulated something and are thrifty for the benefit of those who have not accumulated, who never wanted to accumulate and who never could accumulate.

Of course it may be that the moral tone of the American people is so low that they will vote to sustain President Wilson in his unfair war on tariff simply because they are not the sufferers, but again the thought arises that there is some fairness in the American people when a question is submitted to them, and not to such a Congress as we have been living under for the last two years.

I am speaking now as a lifetime Democrat, but against the party that is passing to us as another party, but against the party that is right, in the face of public clamor advocating mob rule and mediocrity as the passport to power and success. H. G. T. NEW YORK, September 16.

THE MARCHING CLUBS.

Another Old Voter Calls for Them to Dispel Apathy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Among the good things published in the SUN, which I read with a wholehearted interest, was the article headed "The suggestion by 'J. S. H.' of a return to the old-fashioned campaign marching clubs, after the manner of the Lincoln Wide Awakes in 1860, in which I marched, until I marched with Lincoln's Hiredlings, as we were called by the Southern fire eaters, clear to Appomattox."

To conduct a political campaign in public halls and with street corner oratory is like trying to celebrate the Fourth of July without fireworks. People generally take to brass band, torch light, transparency parades like a duck to water.

The political atmosphere needs stirring and it is badly General Gusty seems to be in control. Sound the timber and wake him up. We need more ginger in our campaign in order to arouse a sort of war spirit among certain classes of people that don't listen to political speeches without the excuse of a "business appointment." Start the ball rolling now. We are offering a better opportunity presented for such organization on a gigantic scale as at this time. S. R. S. WASHINGTON, D. C., September 16.

MAINE STAR OF HOPE.

A Democrat Home From Mexico Lays a Hughes Victory.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: A friend of mine who recently arrived from Mexico after a sojourn there throughout the troublous period and is now enjoying a vacation in New England writes me this:

"Well, Maine repudiated the Administration of the late President Taft, and we get to know each other better. I am sure we shall become fast friends and that he will be an aid and solace to me in my search for my lost blonde sister-in-law. T. P. NEW YORK, September 16.

AS TO THE HYPHENATES.

Why Should Hughes Repudiate Wilson's 'Very Small Minority'?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I should like to have these questions answered: What is a hyphenate? Is it disloyalty for American citizens of German extraction to vote? If not, why should Mr. Hughes repudiate their support? If so, why does not Mr. Wilson repudiate theirs?

The President is always careful to say that disloyalty is confined to a "very small minority" of our foreign born. Is this negligible number of voters to "wreak its vengeance at the polls?" What, in a country where majority rules?

Do Mr. Wilson's supporters want Mr. Hughes to alienate all our foreign born voters because Mr. Wilson has castigated a "very small minority" of them? AMERICAN 250 YEARS. WASHINGTON, D. C., September 16.

SWINGERS OF MAINE.

Credit is Insisted Upon for Messrs. Daniels and Undermyer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I quote from your editorial article of September 13 about Josephus: "He is needed by the Democracy in every State."

Either, I should say, by the Republicans. Being on the spot, I can see how much Daniels and Undermyer helped to swell the Republican majority here. By all means urge that they shall be sent into every State. FELLOWS DAVIS. DANFORTH, Me., September 16.

ERIC TO HELP.

He is Being Educated to Find the Lost Blonde Sister-in-law.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: All the time that I can possibly spare from my search for my lost blonde sister-in-law I am now giving to Eric, my young blonde, to a study of his character and a furtherance of his education. A close observation of his psychological side makes me begin to wonder if, after all, the theory of the transmigration of souls is not true. I mean that sort of metaphysical which embraces the passing of the soul of a man into an animal.

If the theory is true, then Eric is possessed of or by a disappointed soul which in its human incarnation longed to be an operative tenor but which by force of circumstance was a stove salesman. For Eric tries to find his way through the sympathetic persons may say of this phenomenon that the dog is merely howling. Nothing could be further from the truth. Eric always attempts the same song and always fails. The tone of his voice shows that he realizes this. His song, at best, is very hard to describe, but if you will play over or hum a few bars of that part of Chopin's funeral march where the second theme in the minor key is introduced you will get a faint idea of what it is like. You must remember, too, that Eric's speaking and singing voice is chronically as hoarse as that of a champagne Market huckster late on a Saturday night.

Like all those who would woo the higher arts, inspiration comes to Eric unexpectedly and at unusual times. I have known him when shut out in the yard at night with the moon shining to try to sing. But then I have known the moon to affect other persons, and I was, notably Bill. Even though he is cold and hungry the same thing will happen to the dog. One day this summer, while pausing to scratch behind his ear with his hind leg, he inadvertently seated himself on a bee in the grass. Notwithstanding the pain of the sting, the inspiration seized him just then and he lifted up his voice in song. Rarely have I heard him sing so loudly. Like most aspiring souls, he has all the sympathy in the world for those whose endeavors appeal to him. When others would make melody, particularly on the jaw-harp or oboe, Eric will seat himself as close as possible to their feet and, uninvited, join in. So great is his enthusiasm that even a curtly expressed hint to "shut up" or even a kick does not dampen his ardor. He may leave off for the moment, but he will come back and resume unless he is chained up or shut out.

To course his education is the development of the practical side of Eric's character. To answer to his name, to be down when told, to retire when asked, to be well ordered; these are the A B C's of a well bred dog's education. Of course there are 12 P's too, and never mind. Eric has always answered to his name. He will be down when told if he has had a very hearty meal or is tired out. I had some trouble in teaching him to retrieve. Once he learned it he overdid it. He would go off retrieving on his own hook just to show how well he had learned his lesson. One day when on a walk, he was passing a clump of bushes where I was founding a pool and he retrieved a black silk stocking, although there was no wash hanging out for miles around.

But I had most trouble in teaching him to heel. By that I mean to follow me with his nose at my heel as I walk about. Either Eric, when on a walk, or I would learn this trick. So I hit upon a scheme. The dog is very fond of Bologna and so before starting out with him I rub the heel of my right boot with a piece of it and Eric, oblivious of all else, will persistently heel so long as the odor of the Bologna lasts.

Please don't laugh at Eric. He is my dog and I love dogs. As time goes on and we get to know each other better I am sure we shall become fast friends and that he will be an aid and solace to me in my search for my lost blonde sister-in-law. T. P. NEW YORK, September 16.

THE VINDICATION OF THE REPUBLICAN PROTECTIVE TARIFF.

The Programme of That Party Outlined in Striking Fashion by the Senior Senator of the United States.

From a speech in the United States Senate on August 23 by Dr. J. H. Gallinger of New Hampshire.

There is a fictitious prosperity at the present time, due to the European war, but when the war ends the deadly work of the Democratic tariff law will again be in full operation.

Mr. President, free trade is but a relief to the old Colonial days when our struggling ancestors were powerless to assert themselves, but it was the American with the first breath drawn by the spirit of the great independence of 1776. That was the "new freedom," and any retrogression to free trade is a retrogression to the yoke of foreign power.

Nowhere among the nations is free trade longer tolerated. England, with her vast capital invested in the producing countries, is finding it intolerable and is getting ready for a protective tariff of some kind. But, with all our experience and with all the advantages to be gained from the experience of other nations, we have not learned the lesson of the councils of men, prominent in the councils of our country, so blind that they cannot, or so obstinate that they will not, see the folly of our present course of adopting the very policy which became intolerable to our forefathers and which never will again be borne by a free and enlightened republic.

The import of foreign goods for May of this year notwithstanding the war in Europe, was the largest on record, totalling \$229,000,000, an increase of \$11,000,000 over April and an excess of \$2,000,000 over the May average from 1911 to 1914.

For the year ending with May our imports, totaling \$219,000,000, an increase of \$26,000,000 over the preceding year. Of the May imports, 65.7 per cent. were entered free of duty. If anybody thinks that we have become the "dumping ground for Europe," just let him wait until the war is over. The worst is yet to come. Of course this added surplus of foreign goods displaced an equal amount of goods of American manufacture.

We are urged by our friends on the other side of the chamber to take the tariff out of politics. What we are going to do is to take politics out of the tariff and treat it as a natural matter of fact and business affair, just as we treat any other phase of our governmental operations. It can be perfectly adjusted to our conditions and requirements so that it need not cause a ferment every time it is mentioned. It should be a staple article, like our currency or water supply or transportation facilities. When we realize the immense sums of money invested in this country that cannot be kept away by a single fluctuation of tariff rates, it is readily understood why the tariff should be permanent and steady. It is possible for an American manufacturer to estimate his cost of production by summing up the fixed charges of operation and to add his variable charges, such as rent, fuel, and depreciation accounts, and then to calculate a fair profit upon the whole; but whenever a concatenation of circumstances like those of 1912 shall change the political complexion of the Administration and of Congress the manufacturer's product may be rendered unsalable by the stroke of a pen or by the moving of a decimal point in the rate of duty. So long as it is possible for an act of Congress to confiscate the property of a citizen, it is possible for ignorant or unprincipled politicians to commit a wholesale crime against society.

The protective tariff is not a friend of monopoly. On the contrary, it is a foe and always has been, in principle and in practice, the parent of domestic competition, and has worked out to the benefit of independent enterprise in the manufactures and arts. On the other hand, free trade is fully capable of and certain to foster monopoly. For instance, take a highly capitalized industry like steel business, in which there are a few tremendous concerns and hundreds of small ones, each operating successfully in its own sphere and in proportion to the capital invested under a protective tariff, as heretofore. Now, then, take away the tariff and the two or three big concerns would possibly be able, because of their organization, equipment, and holdings of iron mines, to compete with foreign rivals, but the hundreds of independents not similarly situated would surely go to the wall. In this way free trade would be creating a monopoly that protection has prevented.

As to the Democratic charge that it is a breeder of high prices, the proof of the tariff has been completely vindicated. The accusations so frequently made have been so often exploded that the subject is perhaps unworthy of further discussion; but I will venture to point out a few facts which absolutely refute this contention. The history of the tin plate industry of this country is well known as having been created and fostered by the tariff until tin plate was produced at a cost to the consumer which was a fraction of the former prices paid to foreigners. Steel rails furnish another most striking instance.

A SEA FOOD SWINDLE.

Muscles of the Big Beach Clam Sold for Scallops.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I hate to repeat it, but a Hockaway Beach muskokaib imparted some information which, while it was news to me, may be a well known trade secret. We were talking about skimmers, which I had supposed were used only for bait. Little Neck clam chowder and the shells for paving bungalow lawns and for marine artists to paint sea scenes in. He told me in a whisper that the muscle or hard part was sold for scallops. This probably accounts for the scallops (?) you see advertised as containing oysters. Some restaurants bill "sea scallops." They mean skimmer? Perhaps your clam editor can shed more light on the sea clam and its habits and its uses as food for man, bird and fish. E. D. NEW YORK, September 16.

MAN: THE MASTER.

I'm tired of Rummel, vacation and ease, of chasing Miranda about my neck, of buying her candy and movie and wine. Then, getting encouraged, to find I'm in Dutch.

I'm getting a Hawaiian love tune, of fusing round 'neath a September moon, of taking religion, or an up to date sin. And all of the time catching here rheumatism.

Vacation is over, but how can I leave her? She will not accept me, but still it would please her. I hate her! I love her! Just what would you do? Were you in my boots? I leave it to you! H. S. H.

DOVING AND HALLUCINATING.

From the *Valley of the Gods*.

The Georgia Legislature, using theology last Wednesday and next Monday. Would that it were two years before they met again.

SOLOMON WISE ADMITTED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Solomon Wise, dry goods merchant of Albany, gain admission to the Valley of the Gods? If required, he will obtain a court order, and will be admitted under the Barnes bill. He stands well at this crisis. H. S. H. ALBANY, September 16.

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