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Justice to Scarr, Houston and Wilson, Weather Purveyors.

Ungenerous and cynical persons assert that Scarr, Houston & Wilson, the monopolists who enjoy the privilege of furnishing weather to the American public, have conferred on it the glorious days and nights of this summer and autumn only because in 1915 and the early months of this year they used up all the bad weather they had in stock, and can reap no material advantages from manufacturing more of it. Others maintain that the raw materials for bad weather have risen in price to an extent which renders it unprofitable for the makers to continue its production. We reject both theories. We are not prepared to give unqualified indorsement to the practices of the purveyors, and we shall not at present endow them with our recommendation, but we hope that they have seen the error of their former ways and are reforming. Their present offerings are accepted; they are on probation, and eventually they may win back the confidence their previous misdeeds forfeited.

Certainly the weather they are now furnishing in this neck of the woods could not be excelled in quality, and in quantity it is ample for all. The essential ingredients of the atmosphere are present in proper proportion, blended with great skill. The adjustment of precipitation to the comfort of the people is admirable; it rains nowadays only in those hours in which none except patrons of taxicabs need be abroad. The air is properly dried before it is served, and thus reaches the ultimate consumer sparkling, fresh and untainted. The skies are clear, and the rays of the sun illuminate the earth sufficiently without producing excessive heat. A bland and satisfying principle fills the air, encouraging man to moderate exertion, but restraining him from excesses of endeavor that might imperil his health. He may bask in the noonday sun, but as shadows fall upon him he finds it comfortable to change his position, not violently, but slowly and without undue strain; and when he has sufficiently enjoyed the glories of the sunset he turns to the open fire with gratitude.

This weather is neither unprecedented nor better than that our forebears grew great in; it is, however, infinitely superior to anything Scarr, Houston & Wilson were thought capable of on the strength of their former products; and while this should be acknowledged, they must bear in mind that in the future they will be held strictly to the standard they have recently attained, and repetition of their former abominations will never again be tolerated.

Putting Business Management Into School Affairs.

Through the Board of Education the taxpayers spend $40,000,000 a year. Hitherto this great annual expenditure has been made without centralized control and under circumstances that encouraged waste, if they did not invite actual dishonesty. The board, besides its salary roll, buys supplies of every conceivable kind, and until this year no effort has been made to put its business on a business basis.

Hereafter the board is to have a business manager, on whom will rest responsibility for the proper conduct of its affairs. The job has been created through the efforts of the Board of Estimate, which, as the apportioning agent of the city, has been a constant critic of the administrative processes of the Department of Education. Its occupant will undertake the task of adapting the methods of the department to approved commercial standards. The difficulties to be overcome are numerous, but they can be surmounted, although in the process considerable heat is to be expected.

The Department of Education will not be transformed by the creation of this office, but the decision to attempt new methods of regulation marks the beginning of a reform that has long been urgently needed.

Survival of a Meritorious Citizen.

In spite of the internal combustion engine and all its successes, the horse, whose manifold virtues are now undergoing celebration here, has not been relegated to the show cases of museums or retired to the unproductive uses of mere pleasure seekers. The British tanks have not evicted chargers from the battlefield; the Peoria tractors leave room for them on the farm; racing commands the enthusiasm of thousands, even with easy betting eliminated, and sharp observers declare that the hansom is retrieving some of its former popularity in New York.

At no time has the necessity for a large supply of horses suitable for military and general purposes been more apparent than it is now. Foreign demand has depleted the domestic supply, and prices have reached high marks. Pleasure driving has been curtailed, but it is by no means certain that the motor will crowd the horse off the highways altogether, and it has been proved that for many purposes the gas engine is not as economical or as serviceable as the horse.

Thus the horse goes on exhibition this autumn, not as a relic of the past or a useless survival of primitive times, but as a valuable servant of man, still indispensable in the performance of important tasks and worth his salt. And the most accomplished engineers and body builders never succeeded in producing anything so graceful and beautiful as a well bred, well broken horse.

Universalism's Look Backward.

While all New England is preparing to celebrate in 1920 the 300th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims the members of the Universalist Church are endeavoring to commemorate in the same year the 150th anniversary of the founding of the sect in America. It was on September 30, 1770, that JOHN MURRAY, who had landed at a place in New Jersey called Good Luck, preached his first sermon in a church built by one THOMAS POTTER. POTTER had built the church and let it stand empty, awaiting the day when there should come the voice of one crying in the wilderness and making straight the path. That one proved to be the "heretic" JOHN MURRAY.

The organization of the Universalists was accomplished in Gloucester, Mass., within the next ten years; but it was not until toward the close of the American Revolution that the liberty of the Universalists to worship as they pleased was established. In a celebrated suit brought by MURRAY against the First Parish for the recovery of money diverted from his use the Judges instructed the jury to bring in a verdict adverse to MURRAY. This the jurors refused to do. On retrial Judges and jurors concurred in MURRAY'S favor. Perhaps the Universalists do not overstate the facts when they say that the result of this trial not only established the right of each person to support any religious belief he preferred but also established the right of each person to support no religious belief whatever if he so chose. In view of this the denomination has some reason to look for outside support in its effort to preserve and beautify the house in which MURRAY lived in Gloucester, a dwelling erected about 1768 and in itself a delightful specimen of New England architecture.

Why We Now Have the Indirect System of Presidential Election.

We take pleasure in answering the following letter from a reader, whose inquiry will probably find many echoes at this time:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I find there are voters, and others as well, who do not understand the reason for electing our President through the medium of electors. Will you be good enough to tell your readers why the choice is not made solely by the popular vote? B. A. W.

The idea of the founders of the republic was to have picked men, regardless of political party, choose the President. Accordingly they provided in the Constitution that each State should appoint Presidential electors "in such manner as its Legislature may direct."

It was the design of the framers of our Constitution to give the States, as such, a voice in the choice of the President. Accordingly they provided in Article II., Section 2, that:

"Each State shall appoint * * * a number of electors equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress."

This gave to the smaller States a representation among the electors greater than would have been theirs had population alone been consulted. It is followed to-day by allotting to each State as many electors as it has Senators and Representatives combined. Thus New York has two Senators and forty-three Representatives; and therefore forty-five Presidential electors. Rhode Island has two Senators, three Congressmen and five Presidential electors. Yet the population of New York is not nine but eighteen times that of Rhode Island. The two additional electors are the State's voice in the choice of a President, as distinguished from the voice of the people, though the utterance may be the same.

In the first election of a President in 1789 there were attempts to hold popular elections in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, but the choice of electors was finally made by the Legislatures of these States. Rhode Island and North Carolina had not yet ratified the Constitution, in New York the Legislature quarrelled too long about the question of ratification, so that these three States failed that year to choose Presidential electors.

Every one had WASHINGTON in mind for the Presidency, but he was not nominated in the modern sense at all. When the electors assembled each elector cast two votes, not distinguishing one as for President and the other as for Vice-President. There were sixty-nine electors and each cast one vote for WASHINGTON. Of the other sixty-nine votes JOHN ADAMS had thirty-four, JOHN JAY had nine and the rest were scattered. WASHINGTON was accordingly declared President and JOHN ADAMS Vice-President.

Four years later, WASHINGTON'S reelection being almost unanimously desired, there were no opposing electoral tickets named in any of the States. The late A. K. MCCLURE'S book says:

"The Presidential electors of that day were appointed in accordance with the obvious spirit of the Constitution, that meant to provide an entirely dispassionate and independent tribunal to exercise the soundest discretion in the choice of a President and Vice-President. No pledges were asked or given by any one named as an elector, and each one was free to vote according to the dictates of his own judgment. Had there been opposition electoral tickets, they would have logically run on opposing lines with distinct obligations on the part of each side as to how their votes would be cast, but no such question arose until the first battle between ADAMS and JEFFERSON in 1796."

Of the election in 1792 it should be noted that there were fifteen States and 132 electors. In nine States these were chosen by the Legislatures; in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia by the vote of the people. The 264 votes cast by the electors gave WASHINGTON 132 and ADAMS 77. CLINTON was third, with 50 votes.

In 1796 there were, for the first time, two distinctly declared and opposing candidates for the Presidency—ADAMS and JEFFERSON. ADAMS received 71 votes and JEFFERSON 68. Thus JEFFERSON became Vice-President. Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina cast divided electoral votes. Even in JEFFERSON'S home State there was an electoral vote for ADAMS, although Virginia was strongly Jeffersonian. The fine theory of the fathers that the electors could and should act independently of popular preference did not survive this political strain.

In 1800-1801 a fresh difficulty arose. JEFFERSON and BURR each received 73 votes of the electors and were tied for the Presidency. Now BURR had not been seriously thought of for the Presidency. The votes cast for him had been intended to insure him second place. The contest had been regarded solely as between JEFFERSON and ADAMS. But BURR had permitted the use of his name as a candidate against JEFFERSON.

This muddle, ultimately resolved in favor of JEFFERSON by the House of Representatives, ended the business of having the electors vote only for President, with the Vice-Presidency falling to the man whose vote stood second. Thereafter votes were cast distinctly for President and for Vice-President, as is done to-day.

The electors of the present will be seen to be entirely different persons from those the founders of this country had in mind. The electors are now as completely responsive to the popular will as is possible without the entire removal of State boundaries in Presidential elections. Were these boundaries to be disregarded there would be no further use for Presidential electors, and the popular vote would decide the issue.

And that is what the nation will have when by the process of constitutional amendment the element of Statehood is eliminated and the people vote directly for President. Then the President will represent a majority of the electorate.

A Little Poison on the Side.

It was a fat election for betting commissioners, for tipsters, for the purveyors of "inside information." The speculative spirit, fostered by the extraordinary course of stocks under the stimulus of unprecedented foreign conditions, found in the contest for President a challenge to prejudice, to judgment, to partisanship. Nobody knows how much was wagered; here $5,000,000 is hit upon as the probable amount; in another place $7,500,000; in another $12,000,000. Nor did the gambling stop with the close of the polls. On Wednesday and Thursday odds were offered on WILSON and on HUGHES, although the decision had been given and merely awaited the slow process of tabulation.

The bettors in many cases, if not in all, were subject to disfranchisement and frequently to criminal prosecution. These were trivial considerations lightly brushed aside in eagerness to cash in on the outcome of the balloting. The election wore the aspect of a sporting event or a commercial transaction to the bettors; the wise among them stifled personal inclination and political opinion, seeking in the victims of these weaknesses contributors to their own pocketbooks or bank accounts.

A messenger boy bet the $8 intrusted to him to deliver against $5 offered by a man in front of a bulletin board; Mercury won, but the other fellow disappeared; the boy is in jail. Is he the sole and lonely victim of this orgy of gambling?

Bread and Its Makers.

A while ago the Commissioner of Weights and Measures, Mr. HARTIGAN, suggested that the bakers reveal to housewives their recipes for bread making, his idea being that the professional kneaders would have an opportunity to prove to the ladies that the kitchen cannot compete with the bakeshop in both quality and economy. The bakers, however, do not rush to Mr. HARTIGAN'S flattering notion. The *Bakers' Weekly* says:

"The suggestion by Mr. HARTIGAN is impractical, as the average housewife would never, under any circumstances, admit that her loaf was not better than bakers' bread, and, what is still worse, since she neglects to count her time and fuel and has no overhead expenses, she is bound to come to the conclusion that home baking—in her opinion, at least—is, after all, the more economical way. Mr. HARTIGAN no doubt means well, but his plan of 'showing the ladies' would surely prove a boomerang to the bakers."

It is probable that the average housewife who makes bread is as stiff-necked as the trade journal believes her to be; it would be unfortunate for humanity if she were not. It is through the self-confidence and persistency of housewives, competing with mother-in-laws and neighbors for the blue ribbon of a husband's approval, that cooking has come to be an art and a joy. In the making of bread the bakeshop has only aped the kitchen, adding now and then some device, sanitary or labor saving, but never quite equalling the quality of the kitchen loaf. The housewife has adopted the mixing machine, having found that it does its work as well as hands and more quickly.

The great gulf between the baker and the housewife is that the baker bakes for the average person, who exists only approximately, while the housewife bakes to suit the personal, educated palates of her family. They may call for a coarse, tough bread which would bankrupt a baker if he tried to sell it, or a bread so fine and soft that it is not easy to cut. Bread is like roast beef and baked beans; while the product of the professional may be edible and nutritious, it is not Art.

It is true that the housewife does not count her time or her overhead. What is time to her, except for such a beloved task? As for overhead, the man who eats the bread has paid the rent. The gas companies have proved to women that the fuel cost is small and that the five cent loaf may be produced for about three and a half cents. Bread is still one of the least expensive of pleasures.

The baker will continue to turn out his light, clean, palatable loaves, and with the profits buy baseball teams. The housewife will keep on baking, at least once a week, ambrosia. She does not want the baker's recipe. Seven eons hence she will yet be ahead of him.

The Brunette With the Basket.

Our friend who writes to inquire about the identity of the "dark woman who stands on top of the new fountain at the Plaza" is, we fear, affected by the general gloom which afflicts those who frequent the neighborhood of Fifth avenue and Fifty-ninth street. The dust from the cutting of the subway falls upon noses, clothes and minds. Even the ancient faces of the hansom drivers are not as ruddy as they used to be. We have no fault to find with the color of the brunette who holds the basket. The artist, perhaps with the tube excavation in his thoughts, made her of bronze, and bronze she shall be until some Park Commissioner of a dread future has her coated with white enamel. Her basket holds not mud and stones but fruits or flowers.

Why find fault with a brunette statue? The Justice on the City Hall is much darker than AIDA and we are content to have her so if the city will only keep the claws of the sand blasters off the Hall itself. DIANA, eternally aiming her arrow from the tip of the Garden, is no albino, but as dark as if she had spent the summer in the Maine woods. If Mr. A. T. PAYER yearns for blond statues, let him come down town and view the fair one who tops the pyramid of the Western Union building. With blond arm she plucks blond lightning from the air. Her wings are aureate. In certain lights their feathers are reminiscent of the white pine which the village wizards, with knife and steam, used to transform into spreading fans, these to be put in a bottle and shown in the barber shop.

Another blonde lady of our skies is on the Municipal building. Still young, her fairness has not been smirched by the smoke of the Jersey factories or the miasmas of the Passaic River. Some day, too, there may be a statue of the lost sister-in-law.

As for the identity of the brunette with the basket, why should everything have an identity? What the world needs is more mystery.

The feud between "Hi" JOHNSON and General HARRISON GREY OTIS has begun with the worst epithet that one American can "hurl" against another, and, as the son of the robustious GROVER I. JOHNSON surpasses the old gentleman in vigor and venom of expression, it is going to be a mighty ugly quarrel. Oceans of ink will flow, and the Sierras will resound with cuss words.

In the death of Adjutant-General WILBUR F. SADLER, Jr., the New Jersey National Guard loses a most capable and energetic officer. He knew his duties thoroughly and was an authority upon all things pertaining to the Organized Militia.

Speaking of doubtful States, Chihuahua is so uncertain as to be a frightful menace to two neighboring republics.

The lady in the State of Washington who made this promise to her steady company, "If HUGHES wins I'll marry you right away, but if he loses we'll wait a long time," and on Wednesday morning consented to be married, was overheard to say, "Oh, bother the extras!" when her husband showed her that the election was in doubt. Woman seems to be just about the same in the suffrage States as in the States that refuse to put the ballot in her hand.

Miss RANKIN makes her own clothes and hats, and she is also an excellent cook.—*Missoula, Mont., despatch.*

If the news gets round the Hon. JEANETTE RANKIN will not serve many terms in Congress.

The spirit of 1776—yes! The spirit of 1876—never again!

The November Feeling in the Barnyard.

First Turkey—How do you feel?
Second Turkey—Too fat to fight

Preparedness.

Stella—Done your Christmas shopping yet?
Bella—More; I have my New Year resolutions already broken.

UNORCHESTRATED.

As a boy Richard Rand suffered an impairment of hearing which was destined to influence his whole life.

He found himself to a large extent unfitted for the society of other lads. He could not enjoy their whisperings or share their mischief. None wanted to have much to do with a fellow who couldn't catch half you said, and like as not caught the other half wrong. He was very nearly useless in games. Besides, he had the queerest way of looking straight at you as if he guessed what you were thinking, even if he didn't, or couldn't, hear what you were saying.

The deaf boy found the companionship of his playmates painful. He withdrew more and more into himself. He developed a love of reading, pictures and music. When he was with people he studied their faces with anxious care. Sometimes he could pierce the mask, sometimes he could not. When he did he was often cut by the carelessness, indifference and insincerity he frequently detected.

Rand went away to school and then to college. It was as if he were encased in a shell. Not many persons broke through the barrier imposed by his infirmity. He dwelt for the most part in his own world. This was a region spacious and peacefully serene. It was peopled with figures of the past. They were men and women of history or fiction—heroes, demigods, scoundrels, thieves, martyrs, poets, knights and peasants. They moved about to the accompaniment of Beethoven and mediæval chansons, of Chopin and Palestrina and a host singing:

Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature * * *
Fair are the meadows,
Fairer still the woodlands
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woful heart to sing.

The naive and joyous echoes of the song sung by the followers of Peter the Hermit, Godfrey of Bouillon and Richard the Lion Heart struck a deep note in Richard Rand's soul.

At the age of twenty-nine he had become a composer of music. His work showed distinct promise. Several sonatas received discerning praise. His first symphony was performed by the leading orchestra of America and was acclaimed a little masterpiece.

It was based on American melodies, with the exception of the andante, which had for its motif the Crusaders' Hymn. The harmonization of the work was particularly fine. There could be no doubt of Rand's talent.

Sitting a few feet away from the players Rand listened to their rendition of the symphony. After the applause had ended, and as he left the stage, he glanced up at one of the boxes. Seated in the front of it was a young girl of great beauty. She looked down at Rand and smiled.

The smile revealed to others than Rand what only Rand with his rigid, self-imposed training had perceived from the moment he met her. It revealed the sincerity, the sympathy of a great nature. She was one of the few persons Rand had met in all his life who had stood his searching tests, and she was the only one he had ever loved.

The composer slipped into the darkened wings. For a moment a hatred of his infirmity, which forbade him to think of her, swept over him in a tremendous surge of feeling. As he stood there he noticed that he caught only the melodic notes of the piece the orchestra had started. The comparison to his own life struck him with deadly force. It would be his fate through all the years that should be vouchsafed him to have to supply his own harmonies—beautiful and glorious, incommunicable, and audible to himself alone.

THEORY OF THE WHALE

Was It an Inn From Which Jonah Was Cast Forth?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In answer to the question, "Is the story of Jonah and the whale true?" I must point out that these stories have to be correctly interpreted. The object, you must remember, is to point a moral. The Whale, then, was undoubtedly the name of an inn frequented by fishermen and other seashore characters, and one, Jonah, returning from a cruise and being paid off, repaired to the Whale in search of refreshment. After three days (saloon keepers were slow in those days), his money being dissipated, he was cast forth again. H. J. S.

NEW YORK, November 10.

Relative to the Presence of Hyphenates at the Battle of Saratoga.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I shall have to ask space to crave the pardon of Mr. Thomas O'Brien, who objects to my failure to mention the hyphenate Irish at the battle of Saratoga. I shall search my history more diligently and will no doubt find the record of the patriot your correspondent mentions.

Mr. O'Brien is mistaken; I wasn't "joshing." I was attempting to put the glorious accomplishments of patriots before a people grown stale with custom. I haven't any doubt that the Irish at Saratoga, or indeed any other place where there was the chance of a good fight, acquitted themselves gloriously. But I will bet a cookie that at Saratoga they didn't claim to be Irish-American.

FINDLAY SACKETT.

NEW YORK, November 11.

Large Event in a Kentucky Town.

From the Harlan Messenger.

One of the largest events that has ever happened in our town was the eating of eighteen dishes of ice cream at the store of S. H. Kassem last night by Guy Garland of Pittsburg, Ky., who works at Kills mines.

A Trumpet Stilled.

A sporting item has it that a football examination was held among candidates for the final games last week at one of our prominent institutions of learning.

In Greek he made a perfect 10;
Both Xenophon and Homer
Fell captive to his fountain pen;
That philosophic roamer
Whom Plato dialogues about,
Our hero put to utter rout.

In Latin the subjunctive mood
And proseful composition
Brought smiles didactic—pleasant food,
And quite without volition
His Tacitus and Terence papers
Made the examiner cut capers!

In mathematics 'twas the same;
In physics, quite the Newton;
The chemistry exam was tame
To him, a very Teuton;
Child's play to him the mysteries
That lurk in ancient histories.

But in the major thing, alas!
He proved extremely thick.
The use of hands; the forward pass;
When it is best to kick,
Had failed to find a lodgment in his crumpet,
And so for him fame never sounded trumpet.

MAURICE MORRIS.

WOMAN IN THE CAMPAIGN.

Significance of Her Participation Both in Suffrage and Non-Suffrage States.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There seems to be some surprise that women in this election have not determined the election and have voted just as men have voted. Pray, how else could they vote? They had the same candidates to select from and there was nothing else for them to do.

The significance of women's part in this campaign lies in the fact that in the issues that have been presented they have had a keen interest, and whether voters or non-voters, suffragists or anti-suffragists, they have cast aside all personal prejudices and have given loyal, intelligent and disinterested service to the political party with which they were affiliated. The contribution made by women in this campaign has been recognized in suffrage and non-suffrage States alike and has rendered the position of the disenfranchised women ridiculous and intolerable.

Women's part in this campaign will certainly bring nearer the day when women shall not only fight with men for the cause in which they believe but shall receive the power of the franchise to complete their efforts.

ALICE CARPENTER,
Chairman Women's City Committee Hughes Alliance.

NEW YORK, November 11.

The Same Event as Interpreted by the Anti-Suffragists.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In all the uncertainty which surrounds the final outcome of the Presidential election one point stands out clearly, which is that woman suffrage, indorsed by the two large political parties in their national platforms merely on the ground of political expediency, did not prove to be an issue in the campaign.

The Republican leaders who made a special effort to capture the woman's vote must be greatly chagrined at their failure to swing the woman suffrage States to their candidate. The Republican candidate for President made the highest possible bid for the support of the women voters through his personal indorsement of the Federal amendment—and lost it.

Illinois, where the women voted for President for the first time, is a normal Republican State which swung to Wilson in 1912 but is now back in the Republican column. The State would have gone for Mr. Hughes without the woman's vote.

Montana, which went for Roosevelt in 1904 and Taft in 1908, gave its votes for Wilson in 1912, and did not swing back to the Republican column through the woman's vote.

Nevada, which voted for Roosevelt in 1904, is usually found in the Democratic column and still remains there.

Utah, the great Mormon woman suffrage State, is unexpectedly found in the Democratic column this year, since it is usually regarded as a Republican stronghold.

Wyoming, in the Republican column in 1904 and 1908, turned to Wilson in 1912 and also gave its electoral votes to him on Tuesday.

Washington, Republican in 1904 and 1908 and Progressive in 1912, now swings to Wilson.

Colorado, Arizona and Idaho are all Democratic, as they were four years ago, while California still hangs in the balance.

Let us hope that as a result of this election future candidates for any political office will not be terrorized by the threat that the woman's vote can be "delivered" against them unless they indorse woman suffrage.

ALICE HILL CHITTENDEN,
President New York State Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage.

NEW YORK, November 11.

Tuesday's Result Attributed to the Woman Vote.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The women of the twelve suffrage States have done what it was freely predicted they would do; they have elected a President of the United States. Ten of the equal suffrage commonwealths, all but three strongly Republican, indorsed the Wilson policies. It is true that in the last two weeks of the campaign the Republican managers by a supreme effort were able to win over a small majority of the women of Illinois, but elsewhere their efforts were of no avail.

With the suffrage States excluded Hughes would have been elected, and political authorities agree that if the voting in those States had been confined to the men the defeat of Wilson would have been assured. It is obvious therefore that the women must receive the credit for or bear the onus of the triumph of the Wilson policies.

The easy going American, ease going whatever woman is concerned, has been saying: "Oh, well, if the women want to vote let 'em. They can't do any harm." And the suffragists have been telling us that the woman voter is at least equal in patriotism and judgment to the men, that her intuition is superior, that she cannot be fooled so readily by crafty politicians, and that she naturally inclines to the candidate representing personality and politically the highest type of citizenship.

All good Americans will hope that in reelecting Woodrow Wilson she exercised all of these admirable qualities and that her judgment will be vindicated by the record of the next four years. But if we accept the statements of practically all newspaper correspondents in the West we must arrive at the conclusion that the women voters failed to grasp the larger issues of the campaign. Our national honor and prestige, industrial and military preparedness, the Mexican and European policies of the Administration did not concern them.

The successful party did not appeal to their patriotism or intelligence, but merely to their feminine aversion to force. The false cry "He kept us out of war" was manufactured for their especial benefit, and with the twin slogan "He protected me and mine" was chanted by the women voters throughout the suffrage States. Obsessed with the idea that Wilson had kept the country out of war, they refused even to consider any other issue. In view of these facts the suffragists may find that high sounding phrases and glittering generalities will not serve to advance their cause as readily in the future as they have in the past. F. B. WRIGHT, Jr.

NEW YORK, November 11.

Is Our Naval Uniform a Copy?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As none of your contributors appear to know why the American naval uniform has three lines of white braid on the collar and a black scarf around the neck under the collar, I am of the same opinion still, that it is simply a copy of the British uniform. Where is America's originality?

NEW YORK, November 11. CURIOUS.

Kansas With Some Sense of Shame.

From the Topeka Capital.

While Dwight Harris is wearing a wrist watch, it is distinctly to his credit that he shows a proper sense of his shame by concealing it underneath the cuff of his shirt.

PLACE OF THE VOLUNTEER SOLDIER IN AMERICA'S SYSTEM OF DEFENCE.

Experience in the European War Applied to the Military Problems of This Country.

The people of the United States are beginning to take stock of the nation's military resources. Until quite recently there prevailed in this country a general and vague optimism. Like the British, we would "muddle through" if attacked, and a country as rich and powerful as the United States would quickly forge the necessary weapons out of hand when the time came. But now a somewhat different sentiment is growing. It is recognized that problems of modern war cannot be settled on ancient precedents.

Modern war is a matter of scientific recruiting, of technical training, of chemistry, of petroleum, of railways, of sanitation. Again, the compulsory military service laws in such thoroughly democratic countries as Switzerland, New Zealand and Australia, as well as the example of England herself, are taken as a model of what democratic communities can do when the supreme hour comes. But apart from questions of the legal theory of compulsory or national service, from which militarism in the Prussian sense must be carefully distinguished, there are several practical problems to be discussed.

First, is the scheme of voluntary training really national, adequate to all occasions, fair to all and efficient enough to carry the nation through a war with the minimum expenditure of men and money? Undoubtedly the nation is realizing far better than hitherto where these questions lead. That it is the duty of every citizen to make himself efficient is an idea strongly held by an increasing number. But how is this efficiency to be acquired? The application of compulsory military service upon all able bodied men is something that only supreme necessity would make popular, as it did during the civil war, and until that supreme necessity comes the question of compulsory service will be shirked by wavering and tentative politicians. In theory it is not wholly foreign to the American spirit as a republican and democratic spirit. To ask all citizens, without distinction of class or calling, to give their aid in the defence of the country does away with the unfairness of depending upon the patriotism of a few.

The experience of Great Britain, the experience gained in the mobilization of the National Guard, in such training camps as Plattsburg, indicate the remedy for the faults of the compulsory and voluntary systems, which is surely some form of physical and military training in the schools or in camps like Plattsburg or the volunteer training camps of England. Medical and sanitary authorities who have studied the guard mobilization believe that some system of national service would be for the good of the country, and would serve both its mental and its physical health. The military training of boys and young men, under American conditions of equity, seems not only practical but fair. No one knows better than the physician and military surgeon the difficulties and dangers of depending upon raw levies in war time. This question has been the subject of debates in Parliament, debates carefully reported in the *Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal*.

In the English medical and official view there are two clear duties for a patriotic people to fulfil: First, the duty to support without reserve the military service act and its scheme of obligatory training. Everybody recognizes the extreme danger of indecision and how unequally the call for men to the colors has been responded to in different localities and among different classes. The spirit of the volunteer army has been splendid, but it has not reached men who would make good stuff within its organization if they were convinced that they were needed. All that is required to secure the adhesion of such men is to provide the method of making up their minds for them. The second duty of English writers and political leaders has been one of criticism. It was candidly acknowledged that the endurance of the new recruits was below a safe standard.

Certainly the quality of endurance is of primary importance. It is an essential quality, enabling the man who has it to withstand the fatigues of marching and the mental strain of war. How great this mental strain may be, especially in the case of men of the clerking, business and professional classes, is proved by the number of nervous breakdowns. The want of endurance is often not discovered until men have been sent to the front; they must in these cases be invalided home and treated in hospitals, and those that are found incurable become charges to the State. This raises the question, Is it right to pass on to the public the expense of caring for men who should first have been regarded as unfit? This question can only be answered in one way. Earlier and closer attention to the problem of military service would have given more time to differentiate these classes; as things are under the hasty system of accepting the first rush of volunteers the hurry and confusion of disorganization have rendered it difficult to distinguish.

In the United States it is especially desirable to spread authentic information on the European experience of volunteer training. We are so habitually absorbed in our own business or political affairs that we seldom lift up our eyes to what is going on in the internal life of Europe; and yet what is going on in the training camps of Europe is full of interest for those who are watching the career of voluntary service in the United States. Few people stop to consider that Germany, for instance, has recruited large volunteer forces, in addition to her pressed levies, and the physique and endurance of these volunteers have been studied with the utmost care. It is most gratifying to find that volunteers have proved their worth under the most trying conditions.

A comparison between the English and German volunteer systems is a useful way of reaching the pith of the matter. In England the volunteer training camps have proved infinitely the biggest voluntary recruiting agency in the country. They awoke the military spirit and sent 1,000,000 men to the colors. In the last issue of the *Spectator* there is the following summary of the military qualities of the volunteers: "What they have done in trench work alone without cost to the State is a monument to their self-sacrifice and power of work. Again, in making themselves proficient, both in drill and marksmanship, their achievement, considering the difficulties they have had to encounter, is little short of a marvel." The difficulties mentioned are full of instruction to the United States. They consisted of the want of arms, rifles, equipment and uniforms.

The German picture is different. The Germans alone have published statistics and figures showing the qualifications of volunteers. The medical examinations were more difficult than the ordinary examination of recruits who in doubtful cases can be consigned to the Landsturm or can be referred to a subsequent examination. As the German tactics depend so much on march discipline and speed, the endurance of volunteers was tested in every possible way. The recruits were classed as follows: (1) Perfectly fit for active service; (2) fit for some branches of the service, garrison duty for example; (3) perfectly unfit for service; (4) at present unfit for service but capable of service in a short time if properly trained. The proportions of the different classes were 73, 12 and 18 per cent. The proportion varied with age, the highest being between the ages of 21 and 30. Volunteers from the working and laboring classes were usually stronger than volunteers from the business, clerking, professional and student classes; no difference between country and town classes could be noted. The end result of the perfectly fit was above praise.

These are encouraging facts for Americans. Our system seems to be a good one if methodized. But the process of methodizing it has done languished of late. The experience of Europe, as regards the policy of this country, shows that the preliminary mental training of schoolboys may occupy a greater place in education. These are the lessons that France and England are teaching. France in particular has given proofs of devotion to this principle and has made it clear that physical and mental training, meaning bodily exercises, national military service for boys and young men, has under war conditions elevated the intellectual and moral tone of the nation.

GET OUT THE MUFFLERS!

Missouri's Favorite Prognosticator Foretells a Cold January.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The month of January, 1917, will begin very much like January, 1904, when the little planet Mercury at its greatest distance east of the sun came suddenly around the curve and tossed the earth out from the sun to zero weather in places and 30 degrees below in Massachusetts.

The coming January will find Saturn and Neptune a little in advance of the earth, which may lessen the effect of Mercury's dash toward the earth and prevent the earth's outward movement from the sun to some extent. Nevertheless the weather for a day or two will be very cold about January 4 or 5, 1917. Mercury will cause two more cold spells before receding from the earth January 19. D. A. N. GROVER.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., November 9.

Kind Words for an Oklahoma Sheriff.

From the Talogo Advocate.

The report is current that Sheriff Skelton has been arrested and taken to Oklahoma City on a charge of gambling. We don't know where or how this report was started, but one thing we do know is that Mr. Skelton is still here. He asks us to state that this report is false and that the reporter is irresponsible.

As an Exhibit, Perhaps.

From the Boone News-Republican.

Following the musical programme Mrs. J. T. Miller read an article on "Personal Devils." Seventeen were present.

The Victory.

Five famous cronies claimed with glee
They won the famous victory.

Vox Populi above the din
Proclaimed: "'Twas I who kept him in."

Pro Bono Publico declared:
"I certainly believe I shared."

Cried Veritas, a little peeved:
"The triumph was by me achieved."

Quoth Old Subscriber: "Well, I guess
He would have lost without the press."

But Constant Reader proudly said:
"'Twas I! His pretty notes I read."

McLANDBURGH WILSON.

IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Observations of a Student Who Finds Some Improvements Possible

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The day your correspondent in THE SUN of Tuesday complained of noise in the libraries I was in the further room of the technology department of the New York Public Library when a young fellow with a great deal of noise, was dusting the tables of books that were used the day before.

I asked him if it was necessary to make so much noise. He nodded and kept on slamming books and pushing chairs. In this room there is a waiter the door of which is usually closed with a hideous noise. Some hard of hearing and conversation not disturb me, but these noises are when I am reading.

In the main reading room I called for some books on electricity. Some had illustrations, but the ordinary books and I was told to take them inside the enclosure where the waiters are going all the time and it is impossible.

I often wanted to say something to the poor lighting. One would think that when $20,000,000 is spent on a building and ground the question of study would be almost secondary. Books on hygiene say the light should come from the back in reading, that the whole room should be lighted; but what do we find? The lights are in the middle of the room with shades so that the light is thrown from the edge and one must lean the body forward in a most uncomfortable position. I see, however, that the lights were taken off the tables in the new paper reading room and the whole room is evenly illuminated by indirect lighting and there is hope that this decided improvement will be extended to the other rooms of the library.

EDWARD C. RAY.

NEW ROCHELLE, November 11.

And the Unfortunate Hearers Too

From the Kansas City Star.

Certain musical compositions have been found to be nerve poisons of a high order in the minds of those who play them.