

The Sun AND NEW YORK PRESS.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1916.

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

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid. DAILY, Per Month, \$3.00. DAILY, Per Year, \$35.00.

Published daily, including Sunday, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 130 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

Published by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 130 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

London office, 40-42 Fleet street. Paris office, 6 Rue de la Michodiere, off Rue du Quatre Septembre.

Telephone, BERKMAN 2104.

Representative Fitzgerald Gets Out of His Depth.

Representative JOHN J. FITZGERALD, in whose usually well ordered department of the interior the high price of foodstuffs has produced a most alarming disturbance, contemplates the addition of a fifth member to his remedial proposals of embargoes, cold storage regulation and reduction of parcel post rates introduced at the beginning of the session of Congress.

The inquiry Mr. FITZGERALD pledges himself to undertake will consume a good deal of time, even if he is content to stop when he has convinced himself that the Government—by which we understand him to mean the Federal Government—does or does not possess this far reaching power.

It is to be hoped that no such community will befall Mr. FITZGERALD and the nation. Conscious though we are that his enthusiasm for saving has not prevented his colleagues of the Democratic majority from saddling a grievous burden of waste and extravagance on the taxpayers, we would not willingly sacrifice his performances in the character of watchdog of the treasury.

The Diminutive Eject of Our Aid to Belgium.

We read that the Commission for Relief in Belgium has now distributed goods worth about \$227,000,000, of which the people of the United States contributed \$104,000,000, or 43 per cent. This comes to less than ten cents apiece for every man, woman and child.

Of course we have given money for relief of distress in many other lands than Belgium. Poland, Serbia, Lithuania, Albania, Armenia, Syria have all looked to us and have not appealed without a response of some sort.

The Federal Food and Drugs Act.

The wide application of the Federal food and drugs act has led to the discovery of many flaws which have contributed to frequent violation of the act.

The Sherley amendment provided against false and fraudulent curative claims on the labels. The liability to prosecution was easily escaped by omitting these claims from the label but publishing them on the outside of the package containing the bottle.

advertisements printed or published promoting sale of foods or drugs. The enormous profits accruing from the sale of proprietary drug combinations stimulate the ingenuity of the manufacturer to such an extent that it appears to outstrip the ingenuity of the lawmakers.

The Fable of the 100 Per Cent. and the Watered Stock.

Once upon a time there were two men who engaged in different enterprises, each susceptible of great expansion. The first man had little capital. For many years he found it necessary to sink all his profits in business extension. These profits were very slight—about a quarter of a cent on each manufactured article selling for ten cents.

"What is your capital stock?" asked the Chief of the Inquisition. The man replied that it was \$50,000. "Is it not true that you pay dividends amounting to 100 per cent on this capital stock?"

"Did your wife divorce you in 1893?" went on the inquisitor. Later the man got a chance to explain that while his profits enabled him to pay 100 per cent on his capital stock they were really only 5 per cent on the money actually invested in his business.

"The second man was so fortunate as to be able to command at the outset practically all the capital he was likely to need for years to come. He issued capital stock of \$1,000,000. The enterprise at the time was worth about \$50,000.

"When he was dragged before inquisitors he was told that the reason his stock did not pay a higher dividend was because he had watered it so heavily in the beginning.

"This infamous explanation did not avail. The inquisitors insisted that some way must be found to reduce the 100 per cent dividend of the first man and take the water out of the second man's capital stock.

On the Road to Waterloo.

As a boy of thirteen ALEXANDER DUMAS, pere, saw the Emperor NAPOLEON pass through the French village of Villers-Cotterets on June 12, 1815, a few days before the battle of Waterloo. On April 4 of that year the insatiable conqueror who had deluged Europe with blood, having reached Paris after his astounding escape from Elba, had written an autograph letter to the allied sovereigns who led the coalition against him.

"Everybody rushed toward the Emperor's carriage, and naturally I was one of the foremost. He was seated at the back, on the right, dressed in a green uniform with white facings, and he wore the Star of the Legion of Honor.

New York's Vote Last Month.

Disregarding the ballots of the militiamen in the service of the United States the Republicans polled 875,510 votes in New York State in the November election, or 30,000 more than the total of the Republican and Progressive votes in 1912.

A Popular Demand Under Suspicion.

The proportion of residents of and visitors to this town whose New Year's happiness is contingent on the consumption of alcoholic beverages in public during the early hours of January 1 is small. Those in this predicament will be gravely disappointed with Mayor MITCHELL's order to the police to enforce the liquor tax law rigorously during the holidays.

NAPOLEON, speeding toward his doom, felt at least a suggestion of repentance for the slaughter of the youth of Europe that had resulted from his pursuit of a chimera, from his brilliant endeavors to satisfy a longing for universal power, for a dominance upon earth that has never been had shall never be vouchsafed to one human being?

Now this may be, it is certain that NAPOLEON, rushing from Villers-Cotterets to Waterloo, silent and self-absorbed, nursed his grievance against the allied Powers pushing forth their growing force to crush him who had so often made them subservient to his martial might.

VILLA is not the only military leader in the world who understands the psychology of grand stand plays. BONAPARTE had the average daily war expenditure had now reached \$6,710,000, approximately \$27,807,700.

Hard Assignments. Rebellion reared its horrid head at the Columbia School of Journalism when the fourth year students were required to write a history of Journalism in Philadelphia in a specified time. This is surprising in view of the dignity of the theme.

The fourth year students may be thankful that they were not asked to write an obituary, say, Earl KIRKPATRICK with only three-quarters of an hour before going to press. We have not heard that Dr. TALCOTT WILLIAMS, who, they complain, sets them too hard tasks, ever sent two or three of them out at midnight in a blizzard to cover a fire such as that which destroyed the old Equitable Building.

It will greatly relieve the American public to learn that Colonel HAYES remains calm and noncommittal and apparently neutral in thought. The high cost of living, long made a plaything of politics, economists and sensationalists, has now become a stern reality beyond dispute.

SUBWAY PROBLEMS.

Brooklyn Adverses Manhattan to Exchange South Bound Rush Hour Trains. To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: In Wednesday's edition of THE SUN is a letter by Mr. F. C. Hilliard commenting upon and making a suggestion for the relief of the subway congestion.

Naturally, the town will not expect the letter boxes merely because it needs and ought to have them. Considerations such as these are of no weight in Washington when New York affairs are concerned. The Administration tried to hold up the construction of subways essential to the city by demanding a huge price for the use of the bowels of the earth under the Federal Building.

Plainly, respect for New York and the requirements of the Federal service therein will not put letter boxes on the town thoroughfares. We hope that esteem for the World may accomplish this long needed reform.

No Russian Department in Columbia University.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: Having seen in THE SUN of December 10 the statement that Miss Elizabeth K. Reynolds had been named as the head of the Russian department of Columbia University, I beg to inform you that Miss Reynolds has never been the head of a Russian department in Columbia University.

The Full Perennial.

When the ancient town of the Manhattan Hat Works was visited by Governor Andburgh broad went in wide trunk horse to play at bowls on the green's smooth floor.

Beating the Land Shark.

From the Topeka State Journal. Because of the prices the owner of the town of Creston is driving village in Logan county, placed on the route of the Northern Railway decided to move the town.

the talk about personal liberty which will presently vitiate the atmosphere, and will not be deceived by the hypocrisy of those who seek to capitalize the foolishness of others.

Like many other customs originating in gentility and the love of fun, the New Year's celebration in certain parts of New York has come to wear a suspiciously commercial aspect, and a "popular demand" that the law be violated in behalf of its pecuniary beneficiaries will be detected at once for what it is.

Is your imagination working well enough to permit you to see Japan returning Kiaochow to Germany or the English and Boers giving up Germany's lost colonies in East Africa?

At the same rate, the expenditure for a year would be \$10,149,710,500. This includes loans to Great Britain's allies, no small item. Germany's expenses must also be tremendous, but loans to allies are comparatively no heavy tax upon her resources.

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President and Mrs. WILSON today set the "shop early" example.—Washington Telegram. What ten days before Christmas?

Aviators are so averse to making flights after dark, when control of a machine is more difficult, that it seems incredible the Post Office Department is considering a night service by aeroplane between New York and Chicago.

Count von REVENTLOW has again put his foot in it by opposing the restoration of Belgium. Germany's position as a world power depends on the Flemish coast.

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COOKING THE HEN TO LAY.

Electrical Science Comes to Her Aid. Not Quite Disinterestedly. From the Electrical Review. The high cost of living, long made a plaything of politics, economists and sensationalists, has now become a stern reality beyond dispute.

Effects of the Mississippi Climate. To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: My attention was drawn today to a letter published in Monday's issue of THE SUN by the Hon. J. S. Dunning, of Mississippi, in a lecture on the Mississippi in New York on December 7.

Three Rows of Braid on Every Sailor's Collar.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: Your article "The Significance of an American Sailor's Sleeve Marks" is interesting and so far as it goes, correct, except in one particular.

Solomon on Food Storage.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: Apropos of the high cost of living and for the attention of speculators and cold storage men:

A Traveller Tells of Utopia.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: I was in Detroit last week and noticed that in that town gasoline sells for 16 cents a gallon.

MILK PERQUISITES.

Eleven Quarts a Week Free to the Obliging Janitor. To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: Some years ago I worked for a man who has been squealing on the janitors and who has got most of his trade by the method he is now bringing before the public.

High Above the Black River Sounds the Valkyrs' Hunting Cry. To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: The daily bustle of the metropolis has ceased. A thick, clear night envelops the resting populace.

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NIAGARA'S RECESSION.

Plans to Fill the Notch and Raise the Level of Three Lakes. The great of the water over these averages 1.7 feet, and it is perceptibly thin, especially on the east. The water on the Canadian side averages 7.4 feet and is of sufficient volume.

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A DEFENCE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BY A VETERAN OF THE BORDER.

It Did Its Duty There Under Trying Conditions and Will Be Ready to Respond Again if Need Arises.

The National Guard is being battered around most shamefully. The press, the armchair patriots and the general public are taking part in this game of bulldozing and shuttling. As a member of the clan modesty and the importance of adhering to the ethics of the profession ("mum" is the word) have heretofore prevented me from public denunciation of the slanders.

The avarice of the gentlemen of the guard has been commented upon. Have they not accepted the bribe contained in the Fox's bill without protest? How grasping! Forty-eight-dollar dollars a year for an enlisted man, consideration therefor only an option or lease on a man's time, future prospects and life for a stipulated term.

What the country needs is military efficiency brought about by systematic work. Federalization is a good idea in that direction. The sooner discipline is enforced and made uniform throughout the country the sooner will all guard units arrive at that stage of efficiency so much to be desired.

The guard, like any other organization, is composed of good and bad. The good predominates. Has it not weathered the storms of political and other changes for years? The tendency now is to eliminate ornamental and useless features, and we have gradually worked up to the point where military efficiency is the one and only goal.

GENERAL SCOTT RIGHT.

So Says an Observer Who, However, Praises National Guard Patriotism. To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: I have read with interest the report of General Scott, Chief of Staff, and I have pondered carefully the statements he makes to show the inefficiency of the militia system.

THE DURVEE ZOUAVES.

Only the Fifth and 165th New York Volunteers Bore That Name. To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: Mr. J. S. Dunning, who writes to you from Philadelphia saying that he was a member of the 146th New York Volunteers, or Durvee's Zouaves, should know that the Durvee Zouaves (note the spelling)

The Stop Watch and the Supreme Court.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: Am I to understand that when the Supreme Court hears arguments on the constitutionality of the Adamson eight hour law the labor leaders will be with it with stop watches and give the judges a report on the law in the case?

High Cost of Sport in Missouri.

From the Chicago Daily News. The price of shotgun shells is so high that it now costs a poor marksman about \$6.50 to kill one rabbit.

(thing and approve of federalization. That start may be hard, but eventually we shall derive great benefits from it. We expected active service and were fooled. Preliminary training was necessary, and we were disappointed. We did not expect a job, as through some training to a job, tea affair. The incidental hardship would never have bothered us or provoked grumbling. It was the lack of support and bickering we were subjected to.

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SCIONS OF MUTINEERS.

Something About the People of Pitcairn Island in Mid-Pacific. To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: The one is of course more or less familiar with the romantic story of the mutiny of the Bounty, but few of us know the descendants of the nine mutineers that settled on Pitcairn Island in 1790.

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An Arkansas Man's Bust Days.

From the Texas Daily Telegraph. Cal McCull was in Mescalona, a town of last week looking after some political matters.