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TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 2200.

The Public Schools Need a Thorough Housecleaning.

It is apparent that the public schools are not now fulfilling the purpose for which they are maintained. The pupils get much instruction and encouragement in half digested radical political philosophies, and little training in the three R's. They learn the technic of sabotage and disrespect for authority. The striking pupils this fall exhibited a familiarity with and expertness in the milder forms of disorder highly illuminative of their training; some of them, indeed, achieved distinction in the more advanced branches of rioting that must have given great satisfaction to their tutors in this department.

Since the directors of the school system have felt it necessary to discipline certain employees a considerable number of their colleagues have displayed an insubordinate disposition which thoroughly explains the attitude of the pupils. Their conduct has been of a kind to make the salute to the flag and the pledge of loyalty which constitute a part of each school day's work a pitiful mockery. It throws a curious light on the well meant efforts of Commissioner WOODS of the Police Department to bring about a confidential relation between the protectors of public order and the growing generation. Mr. WOODS believed that if he could bring policemen into friendly contact with children it would make for peace and good citizenship; probably it did not occur to him that whatever he accomplished in this way was offset by the attitude of employees of the Board of Education.

Unquestionably, few of the public school teachers are actually disloyal to the Government. These should be dismissed; and when they have been cleared out the authorities should endeavor to find a remedy for the thoughtlessness and bigheadedness that afflict so many teachers.

Gilding Refined Gold.

The President's war message of April 2, 1917, is, as everybody knows, one of the great documents of American history. It is complete in itself. It explains itself. It requires no gloss or comment. No intelligent American who studies its now familiar paragraphs in the light of subsequent events needs any help to understanding or any stimulant of admiration.

We acknowledge the receipt from Mr. GEORGE CREEL'S Committee on Public Information of a new edition of President WILSON'S memorable war message, greatly enlarged but not greatly beautified by a series of exegetical remarks from the pen of Mr. GUY STANTON FORD and others. This gentleman is officially described as "Director of the Division on Civic and Educational Cooperation" in Mr. CREEL'S establishment. We ascertain from the reference books that when not engaged in adorning President WILSON'S messages with forewords and footnotes and afterwords he teaches history in a Western college. Associated with him in the present enterprise of elaboration are three other teachers of history in the same institution.

Roughly estimated, the war message of last April contained about four thousand words. The contribution of Mr. FORD and his colleagues, including prefatory and concluding expositions and running comment inserted in other type between the paragraphs of the message, consists of about ten thousand words. We are bound to say that the improvement effected by the ten thousand words of annotation is inconsiderable. What reader of the message is greatly enlightened as to the meaning of the text by such notes as these?

"No one certainly ever accused the American Navy of 'hitting soft' or of being unwilling to wage the most strenuous kind of honorable warfare."

"Obviously a Government which cannot or will not protect its citizens against a policy of lawless murder is unworthy of respect abroad or obedience at home."

"Obviously unless we send munitions, troops, submarine chasers, &c., to France, England and possibly Russia, since the German high sea fleet does not at present come out, war for us will mean little more than calling names across the Atlantic—until the European war is ended, and then if Germany has a pound of strength left (and very possibly she might be victorious) she can vent on us all her hate and fury and exact from us the indemnities she cannot wring from a bankrupt Europe."

"The autocratic spirit of the German Emperor is clearly revealed in his own utterances."

"President WILSON probably had in mind such wars as those of LOUIS XIV., waged by that King almost solely for his own glory and interest."

"Perm the Great and the more despotic of his successors created largely by imitation and adaptation of German bureaucracy the machinery by which they ruled."

"'Fair play' has small part in the Prussian military usage."

"No one can accuse Mr. WILSON of the least precipitancy in bringing matters to an issue."

"By this Prussian gospel not merely is war inevitably 'hell' but it is to be made deliberately the lowest stratum of hell."

These are sample bricks from the towering structure of exposition and elaboration which the Division on Civic and Educational Cooperation of Mr. CREEL'S Committee on Public Information have built upon and around Mr. WILSON'S war message. We have no objection to offer to the sentiments expressed by the gentlemen. They are innocent, if commonplace. They would be quite appropriate in the lecture room of the Western college or in signed or unsigned communications to the local newspaper.

What we are asking is why, at a time when every dollar raised by high taxation and patriotic public self-sacrifice is needed for ships, for aeroplanes, for tanks, for munitions, for all the indispensable implements of the war which the United States is carrying on against the German Government, any money from the United States Treasury should be expended in printing and distributing such superfluous, if innocuous, stuff as the foregoing.

The Tank.

The British tank, which has just won the greatest victory on the western front since the Marne, and the greatest victory against field fortifications that history records, combines in its cyclopean body three important attributes. It can shoot, it can crush and it can travel.

We are told that the tank was first used by British engineers in the battle of the Somme. The monster has since attained a length of 23 feet and a width of 9 feet, standing 8 feet high and weighing over twelve tons without its armor. This armor is of the sort used by naval vessels and nothing but siege artillery has any effect on it; even that is effective only at long range, for when the tank comes within a certain distance the heavy guns cannot be pointed downward sufficiently to aim at the tank.

As the tank lumbers forward on its caterpillar tractor belts it lays down on each side of its body two lines of steel rails, jointed in short sections, and these rails are laid and picked up, relaid and picked up again in an endless cycle promoted by the endless belts on which the tank covers the ground.

For the tank can cover ground, at four miles an hour when the ground and other circumstances favor, at two and a half miles an hour when in action, its tough hide repelling machine gun fire, 3 inch shells and rifle bullets; its semi-concealed field guns blazing away at the enemy ahead or enfilading—shooting along the length of—an enemy trench; its self-laid tracks bridging trenches; its perpetually padding belts gripping the broken ground as it proceeds up hill and down dale regardless of highways; its terrible weight smashing through a brick wall, cracking and brushing aside sizable trees, tearing a wide gap through a field of barbed wire, riding down and grinding to bits machine gun nests.

The tank can turn around in its own length, rearing itself on its hinder part, where lies its centre of gravity, not over a foot and a half above ground. Nothing easily conceivable could capsize it. And the more slowly it goes the greater its power, as though the laws of physics regarding mass and velocity had been suspended for its benefit.

We can't have too many tanks. They are the apotheosis of the steam roller, only gasolene propelled instead. They have been shown to be capable of conducting a complete offensive without previous preparation, lasting for hours or days, by heavy artillery pulping the hostile trench systems. Behind the tanks rolls forward wave after wave of infantrymen ready to mop up the enemy's holes in the ground and prepare or "consolidate" the captured territory so that it may be held against all counter attacks.

A Point in the Classification of Registered Men.

An interesting point is brought out by Provost Marshal General CROWDER regarding the classification of registered men for future contingents of the National Army. The example he takes is as follows:

Class II. includes skilled farm labor, but when all of Class II. has been called to the colors only a small percentage of the country's skilled farm labor will have been taken from the soil.

By reason of dependents or an alien status or for some other cause placing them in Classes III., IV. and V., a good many of the skilled farm workers will still be left to shoulder hoes and man ploughs after Class II. has exchanged overalls for olive drab.

In addition there will be skilled farm labor above and below the registered ages remaining undisturbed.

Figuring skilled labor on the farm as comprising men from 18 to 50 years, the registered fraction is ten-thirty-seconds of the whole, or 31 per cent.

General CROWDER'S statistics lead him to believe that 62 per cent. of this 31 per cent. will be found to be in classes below Class II., which leaves only 38 per cent. of the 31 per cent. in the second class.

A little multiplication shows this 38 per cent. of the 31 per cent. to represent 12 per cent. of the whole. Sending all of Class II. to camp in any district would therefore, so far as can be calculated, take only one skilled farm laborer in every eight or nine.

Generally, the same computation is believed to hold true of all industry; and as skilled industrial labor is within the second class calling, the second class in its entirety throughout the country should not do much more than decimate the farms and factories. This leaves entirely out of account the American woman, who may be relied upon to take many a man's job and fill it competently.

A Regular Ship!

To think of an oceangoing ship these days is to picture a grim gray thing churning a path through death strewn waters, and with a navy man's eye on the log and a naval crew in the watches. Going to sea is a matter of shooting straight, not of navigating a ship. Everything in the hold is supposed to be munitions and the only possible adventure is an engagement with pirates. It's a dull life.

But Cap'n ——, who worked the old bark —— into an Atlantic port after a year's voyage, with twelve men sick, an amazing tale of wind and weather and a cargo of mahogany—Cap'n —— knows that the ocean isn't all shell packets and submarines and naval pilots. Old times linger for him.

The —— sailed for the Gold Coast with a cargo of flour and oil and rum and tobacco and red flannel—an old time cargo in an old time ship. The principle of truth compels mention of the fact that she also took 104 automobiles, for, as the captain explains, "every nigger in Africa owns a car." But even so the rum and red flannel overcame that obstacle. It was a regular ship with a regular cargo.

And there was trouble with the crew. The captain who had sailed in the —— quit the ship and the mate took charge. Then beri-beri, naturally, and a long loaf down the coast discharging cargo. And hurricane and all hell let loose, as per order; and stores run low, with nothing left but biscuit (weevilly, of course); and the water gone rotten, no doubt—all of these glorious misfortunes and more befell in a year of this regular ship's regular voyage.

So let no one say that the crews and the cargoes of peace have vanished from the seas. The ocean still reeks with romance as of old. O cheerful rum casks! O friendly weevils!

If there be any wise commercial magnate who can casually state that the mahogany is to be whittled into rifle stocks or put to any similar military use, may he forever henceforth hold his peace.

Our City Ruin.

The City Hall clock was destroyed on the 10th of last May. For more than six months the black socket in the cupola has been a sad reminder of the kindly eyes that gazed four ways at the city and told its people pretty good time.

It took the city government 197 days to have drawn and accepted specifications for the restoration of the cupola and the roof of the City Hall. How many days it will be before the clock again answers the inquiring eye of the crowd we cannot say; it is something almost distressful to think about.

We admit that in the spring a Board of Estimate may lose its "punch and pep," as Lord NORTHCLIFFE would say. We suppose architects and draughtsmen must have their long, undisturbed vacations. But if the City Hall had been the property of some enterprising corporation, would the sockets of the cupola still be blind?

It would be interesting to know just how many votes were lost to the present city administration by its sloth in the matter of one comparatively cheap but highly important timepiece.

Two pacifists of the semi-professional type were overheard forcing their ardent counsel on a youth of military age. "Do you want to kill a man you've never even seen before?" "No," he replied slowly and with apparent thoughtfulness. Having appealed to his reason and humanity thus far they inquired: "Do you want to shoot a man down just because a Government orders you to?" "No," said he—firmer this time in his decision—"I want to plunk at least a dozen." The two pacifists of semi-professional type gave it up in disgust. These are discouraging days for pacifists of the semi-professional type.

Women voters of New York are not planning to punish the anti-suffragists. The punishing has been done.

That talk of exemptions for ball players was only a foul tip.

American troops, like the Canadians, excel in patrol work, which is a good deal like old Indian campaign methods except that the Indian had no worse trick than scalping.

An internal revenue officer lifts a voice to reassure those dreading parched throat that 3,000,000 gallons of "drinkable alcohol" were produced last year. Drinkable? So is carbolic acid. But is it potable and related to that well known beverage popularly called for as "The same"?

Allen: A man some other country than the United States has a lien upon.
Enemy alien: A man an enemy of the United States has a lien upon.

Now and then a hotel man conserves too well and gives himself away.

My single thought was to create a discussion on a subject that means much to baseball.—BAN JOHNSON, *who wants ball players exempted.*

His "single thought" achieved results: when he has another foolish inspiration he may think twice.

The *Leipziger Neueste Nachrichten*, belittling the efforts of America in the war, says: "We will wait in perfect tranquillity, secure in the good old German saying that bluff gets you nothing." It depends on circumstances; a well considered and timely bluff has been known to "get something" at the poker table, and Germany is not without hope that it may produce results at the peace conference.

There is a grim determination among us to wage war until the world is free from the shadow and spectre of the sword.—*Colonel* E. M. HOUSE.

And the first thing to be done is to relieve the world of the real sword of Prussia.

In addition to destroying a great number of German army defences the British tanks flattened out a good many theories of modern war.

Not a few Americans were in the throng, having gone to plead for permission to keep their German servants. —THE EVENING SUN.

Thus are the hardships of war brought home to patriots who are willing that everybody else should sacrifice all in their defence.

"The War Department and the entire American army is delighted with General BYNG'S advance," Secretary BAKER tells us. We do not object to Mr. BAKER'S verb in the singular where another might have chosen the plural, but is not "delighted" too violent and martial a word for a son of war to use on such an occasion?

MAKING A LABOR PARTY.

A Difficult Undertaking Lightheartedly Attacked.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now that the American Federation of Labor has decided to enter politics, some new political affiliations are sure to result. Just what those affiliations will be no one at this writing can prophesy, but there is every indication that if the laboring men desert both the old parties and organize themselves into one political group whose votes will be cast resolutely for those recognizing the demands of the laborites, an entirely new political situation will arise.

The political success of the Farmers' Non-Partisan League of North Dakota, a most formidable organization which is spreading southward, the political success of the English Laborite party in England, the seeming advance of socialism and woman suffrage, probably had something to do with determining the action of the American Federation of Labor in entering into politics.

The decision of the American Federation of Labor to enter politics is momentous. It will take time, money and patience to wean the laboring man away from either of the two dominant parties, but it will be done in due time. One thing is certain, the Democratic party, owing to the dominance of the Southern States at Washington, has almost swallowed the Prohibition party.

The party of Jefferson, which has until recently stood for State rights, seems to have brushed aside and regarded as a joke the advice of the founder of the party. This new labor party may be expected to wield influence against prohibitory laws, if President Gompers's utterances on the prohibition question afford a criterion for judgment.

As labor and prohibition are ethically inconsistent, and as prohibition is one of the many social questions calling for an honest governmental solution, it is easily to be seen on what side a large part of the laboring men will line up, since this question must perforce be settled at the ballot box. THEODORE P. CRONEN.

NEWARK, N. J., November 22.

EDUCATING THE HUN.

Perhaps He May Achieve Scottish Liberality of Mind.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir,* Presbyterian Scotland is very closely akin to Prussia in its tenets of theological belief. She has gladly given all of her young men who can be spared to wage war against the descendants of Kultur. One naturally asks, Wherein lies the secret of this apparent anomaly?

A writer remarked: "Let me write a nation's songs and I care not who makes its laws." Prussia failed to produce a Burns. That is of the essence of the matter. The Scottish poet was as proud of his fatherland as any Prussian Junker or any kind of German ever was of his Patrie, but he did not suffer from any obsession that he was of a chosen people or that the Deity was a racial God. Burns was no Chauvinist. He wrote:

Then let us pray that come it may,
As come it will for a' that,
When man to man the world o'er
Shall brothers be an' a' that.

There does not exist among the Prussian Lutherans the broad, cosmopolitan spirit inspiring these lines, but it is going to be licked into them. The way is long and beset with many difficulties, but "It's comin' yet for a' that."

When Der Tag arrives Madame Defarge shall again resume her knitting, and then of a surety we shall have hovering near us the spirit of the Scottish poet who wrote:

Lay the proud usurpers low.
Tyrants fall in every foe.

SANQUHAR.

MONTREAL, November 22.

The Sad Case of Russia.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* After reading Lincoln Steffens's articles on Russia; after hearing him tell of the gullibility—though he termed it "innocent wisdom, unlearned and so unspoiled"—of the Russian mob; after reading "Russia, Yesterday and To-morrow"; after reading the articles by Princess Radziwill and the dozens of divergent and conflicting isms and theories, it is refreshing to read your article on "The Man Who Might."

Socialistic ideals in competent hands are one thing, but law and order can never be established so long as the enforcement remains with those who hate the words and are so "beautifully unlearned" as not to know the meaning.

W. J. SHILLIDAY.

NEW YORK, November 23.

THE GUN OF DREAMS.

Its Inventors Bob Up Regularly and Relate Centrifugally On.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The new gun described in THE SUN of November 22 calls up old memories. I have heard of it again and again. The last time was a year or so ago, when a lady from Long Island had it all worked out, and ready to smash the boches. The first time was twenty-odd years ago at Mme. Ybarra's French-Spanish-Basque-American pension in Washington. Two French Canadians appeared there, one a grocer, the promoter, the capitalist; the other a blacksmith, the inventor; both round headed, stocky, bright eyed, and as wary and watchful as a pair of gophers.

Their gun shot, "without powder, smoke or detonation," a more wonderful number of bullets than even the Rice gun, so many that a simple calculation showed that without an incredible initial velocity there was not room in the air for them. But that was nothing to them. They wanted an introduction to President Cleveland, so that they could get one or two million dollars for the gun, sight unseen, without submitting it to the Army Board for examination, for, as every one knew, it would be stolen if they let any one see it.

We, the pensionnaires, were various in our occupations and pursuits—architects in embryo, geologists, astronomers, artists. Government employees of the scientific departments, even one combined Swedish Count and ex-Admiral of Brazil; so between us, in spite of their secretiveness, we deduced the principle of the Canadians' gun, and the more easily because one pensionnaire looked backward twenty years and remembered a previous rotating centrifugal gun. The inventors disappeared after coming to the end of their resources, to go to France, they said, where evidently they had no more success than in America. One wonders what travels their invention has had. It has turned up in so many places, so widely separated. Perhaps it may be real. A. D.

NEW YORK, November 23.

WOMEN IN THE SHOPS.

One Way to Supply the Labor America Must Have.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* We are told by all the leading authorities that this is an industrial war and that it will be won by those countries which can produce the most ships and guns. We are admittedly not producing these essentials at the rate we should be, owing to shortage of labor.

In order to increase the available supply of labor, prominent financiers are advocating the compulsory suppression of non-essential industries, without regard to the fact that the bankruptcy of such industries would inevitably affect the banks and real estate and would weaken the whole financial structure of the country.

The best way to remedy the shortage of labor would be for the Government to issue an appeal to the women of the country to enter the munition plants, as they have in Europe. Sooner or later women will have to enter industry in this country as the men are conscripted into the army. H. W. S.

NEW YORK, November 23.

TRADE BRIEFS.

Australian merchants present an opportunity for the sale of red oxides and black and blue black colors made for the coloring of cement. Samples are requested.

A firm in London, England, is in the market for oil lamps and glass electric light shades.

Printing presses, bookbinding and paper cutting machines and other equipment for the printing trade are in demand in France.

There is a market in Spain for kitchen utensils.

Vegetable fats, such as beechmast and horse chestnuts, are being used by Swedish manufacturers in the production of soap.

Nine towns in the consular district of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, will have sewers installed as soon as it is practicable. American materials will be needed.

The Uruguayan Government will offer prizes amounting to $3,103 and will distribute selected seed to farmers as methods of encouraging the growing of corn in that country. The 1915-16 crop totalled 4,603,826 bushels, against 11,381,688 bushels in the preceding year.

Jamaica's sugar industry is again prosperous, and Consul C. L. Latham reports that there is an excellent opportunity for the sale of sugar machinery in the Kingston consular district.

Jewelry of American make is in demand in the Dutch East Indies.

Italian dealers wish to buy copper bath heaters, silk covered electric wire, electroliers, nickelled water taps and bathroom accessories of all kinds.

California wines are popular in Norway, and the present is an opportune time to prepare for an increase in this trade after the war.

Farmers in Bermuda plan to increase the production of corn and will endeavor to supply all local needs. The increased acreage will open a new field for the sale and equipment of corn mills and silos.

Rice hulls are being used in Italy as a substitute for coal. It is estimated that there are about 200,000 tons of hulls available for this purpose.

Firms interested in supplying the needs of western Greece are requested to send their latest catalogues to the American consulate at Patras. Importers in this district are in need of automobiles, chemicals, clothing, cutlery, druggists' supplies, dry goods, farm implements, furniture, groceries, hardware, kitchen utensils, leather goods, lumber, office supplies, paints and oils.

The Dominican Republic is an almost unexploited field for the sale of windmills, which are needed badly. The country is devoted to agricultural pursuits, and at present antiquated methods are used for irrigation. Personal representation and an advertising campaign in the newspapers of the republic would be needed to develop this business.

Catalogues, prices and data in regard to machinery for making the paper boxes and bags used by druggists are desired by a Paraguayan manufacturer. One hundred thousand glass perfume bottles are needed also. Samples of the style of bottle wanted may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 734 Custom House, New York.

Spanish dealers are in the market for folding furniture for campers.

Carbide will be needed in Norway, as it is expected that acetylene lamps will replace gas, electricity and petroleum for lighting purposes.

Upholsterers' tacks and nails are needed in France.

The Newark Bay School of English.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* This bit of rhetoric may be seen by any one who rides in the jitney buses of Bayonne, N. J.:

NOTICE

Keep off step and mudguard while car is in motion it may mean the arrest of the chauffeur and subject to arrest.

By order City Commissioners.

LOOKER ON.

WEST NEW BRIGHTON, November 23.

SATAN'S PET AILMENT.

The Mystery and Pain of Neuritis Are Confirmed.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Not long ago one of your correspondents made use of the simile "As mysterious and painful as neuritis." In my humble opinion he said a garageful. Mysterious it certainly is, and, oh, Jemima, how painful! When it first visited my modest shack the doctor said I had it in multiple form and that it would take some time to cure it. He can prove his contention any time. With enough medicine to sink a ship, enough electricity to light the Woolworth Building, enough osteopathy to make a supple contortionist, old 'ritis simply grins a sardonic grin and pops up for more.

Which leads to the inquiry, Has anybody ever been wholly cured of the darned thing? I don't mean that form of the disease where they have "a pain just like yours" and rub it with something and it disappears like magic. I'm referring to the simon pure, dyed in the wool brand, where fiends from Hades perch upon any old section of your defenceless body, armed with assegais and yatigans, and stick you for the drinks or any old thing that occurs to 'em; imps, mind you, with original ideas as to adding to the sum of human woe.

WILLIAM ROBERT THORNTON.

BROOKLYN, November 23.

SAVING DAYLIGHT.

Numerous Authorities Unite to Cheat Old Chronos.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Daylight saving has been adopted as a war measure in the following European countries: England, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Holland and Portugal, and in Australia.

Commissions appointed by several of the Governments find that, while considered as a war measure at first, it is now recognized as not only economical, in that its operation increases the food production and reduces lighting and fuel costs, but is recreational, based on wisdom and common sense, so that after a year's successful trial they recommended its adoption for this year, which was done. France has just passed a law making it effective for all time during the summer months. Newfoundland has adopted it, and advices from Canada are to the effect that it will be adopted there soon.

France estimates her saving in lighting and fuel alone at not less than $10,000,000 a year.

England is saving in gas and electricity about $12,000,000, and actually saved 300,000 tons of coal in the summer of 1916.

Edinburgh saved $50,000 in fuel alone. Manchester decreased lighting cost 15 per cent. from the year previous. Nottingham 25 per cent.

In Vienna alone the saving to the people in lighting bills was $142,000. It was impossible to tell the increased food output, but it was very large.

The estimated saving for the United States for the five months under "daylight saving" is from $25,000,000 to $50,000,000 in lighting bills alone, and in fuel several millions more.

Daylight saving has the indorsement of President Wilson, Secretaries McAdoo, Baker, Redfield, Lane, Houston, Daniels and Wilson, the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defence, American Federation of Labor, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, hundreds of chambers of commerce throughout the country, including those of Pittsburg, Boston, Detroit, Kansas City, St. Louis, Rochester, Cleveland, Los Angeles, San Diego, Minneapolis, Denver, Merchants Association and Chamber of Commerce of New York city, and baseball, lawn tennis, automobile, golf, rowing and other athletic associations, besides thousands of individuals.

The railroads, I understand, are also in favor of this proposition, and the Daylight Saving Committee feels that it is essential to have proper legislation during the coming session of Congress in favor of this movement.

OLIN J. STEPHENS.

NEW YORK, November 23.

How Old Is Ticket Speculation?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* How long has that pest the ticket speculator existed? The first time I ever saw one was in January, 1882, when I was about to enter Chickering Hall to hear the first lecture delivered by Oscar Wilde in this country. I was then at the age when I could be persuaded that sunflowers were beautiful; I now feed their seed to my hens. But ticket speculators were on hand that evening, selling admission for $2. SALVATORE GILLIGAN.

COMMACK, Long Island, November 23.

SONGS IN THE SILENCE.

Ordered On!

I hear the trumpet still,
So thinly clear, its thrill
Yet runs along my veins
The stamp of marching feet—
Repeat, repeat, repeat!—
Grows fainter down the lanes.

The winding line of brown
Is out beyond the town,
And brown the dusty cloud;
And yet I seem to see—
I must—it waves to me—
A hand no dust can shroud.

The Days.

One by one the days drag past,
That used to run so fast, so fast.

Robed in black samite now they go,
From head to foot once white as snow.

All silently they drift along
That made the smooth way glad with song.

The blossoms droop in withered strands
That flaunted red within their hands.

They used to trip away so fast—
The days that now drag past, drag past.

Click! Click!

Click! Click!
Needles turn.
Click! Click!
Eyes burn.

Click! Click!
Needles ply.
Click! Click!
Hands fly.

Click! Click!
Needles bob.
Click! Click!
Hearts throb.

Click! Click!
Needles still.
Quick! Quick!
Eyes fill.

The Letter.

The letter has come! The letter,
Safe from the sea wolf's fang,
Heard you the song it sang?
Salt with the salt sea's tang!
The letter has come—the letter!

The letter has come! The letter
Rich with his touch. Depart,
United by its art—
Alive here on my heart,
The letter has come—the letter!

MAURICE MORRIS.

OUR PRESENT DIFFICULTY AS TO LABOR SUPPLY.

Various Ways of Overcoming It Considered, and a Specific Plan Suggested, Particularly as to Immigration.

From an address by John C. Ross to the Industrial Welfare and Efficiency Conference at Harrisburg, Pa., November 21.

All industrial life now is seriously affected by what is termed the labor turnover. In a recent address Mr. Rea, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, stated that during the year 1916 out of the 146,438 employees, which was the monthly average for the year, 121,477 were new workers, and for the first eight months of the present year, when the average number was 154,971, new men were represented to the number of 115,749. This shifting of the working population is an evil which invites or causes accidents more than any other element of the industrial safety problem, even more than the speeding up associated with the increase in the demands upon all producers.

There is in all industries a greater shortage of labor than the country has ever before experienced. Our normal net increase in population of the laboring classes by immigration of 1,000,000 persons a year has in the past three years virtually been wiped out, and considering the number of persons that have returned to their home lands in response to the call to the colors, and also taking into account the men removed from industrial pursuits by summonses to military service and other war duties, it is quite accurately calculated that there are 5,000,000 fewer workingmen in the country today than there would have been had the war never been started.

A coal operator told me last week that the output of his mines decreased 25 per cent. during the past twelve months, chiefly on account of lack of men, some of his mines actually being closed for that reason; that under normal conditions his output amounts to 4,000,000 tons a year, while now there is great difficulty in obtaining sufficient labor to produce 3,000,000 tons, and this when there is need for double the supply in order that manufacturing establishments may meet the increased demands upon them.

The grain fields of the entire country and the rice, sugar cane and cotton fields of the South and Southeast, with the mines, are crying for help in order that there may be produced the food, fuel and clothing essentials sufficient for our own necessities and adequate for the needs of our allies. The industrial situation has become so acute that we are now imposing upon the women of this fair land burdens of hard labor in most inappropriate vocations, which to me seems a reflection upon our foresight, our courage and our manhood.

Under the labor conditions existing at this time and with which we will surely be confronted during the coming two years, if the war lasts so long, and even during the year we are now approaching, there will be in a failure to heed the warning and apply a remedy to the situation a shortage in the actual necessaries of life, with real suffering among our own people, our allies and our soldiers.

The remedy for the evil or the solution of the problem is in the distribution of our laboring forces in such manner as will meet the urgent necessities of the hour as determined by the authorities at Washington and also the adoption of such regulations by the Federal Government as will bring into industrial life the great mass of idlers that toil not at all. Thousands can be gathered from the street corners and saloons of all our large cities and put to work upon the land producing foodstuffs for the benefit of all, even including themselves. But the greatest need is for an increase in our laboring class, and we have the choice of the indifferent workmen from over our southern border, more negroes, or the most efficient servant from the Orient. There is no doubt in my mind as to which it should be in this time of our great need.

In an editorial article in a recent issue of a leading newspaper entitled "Where Shall We Get Labor?" written in the spirit of the small boy who pokes with a stick at a toad and at the same time experiences great fear lest the monster will turn and bite off his leg, it was suggested that Chinese be imported for the labor emergency, and we have from other sources a like approach to or suggestion of the true remedy. Dr. Hillis, from old Plymouth Church pulpit recently, eloquently endeavored to bring to his congregation a realization of the peril confronting the country in the existing labor crisis. "We do not want," he said, "to impress slaves, but fortunately our Government can, if it desires, enact a law that will enable the President to contract with China for one million or two million men to come to our Western farms and remain there until six months after the war."

As a matter of fact we actually need at the present time five millions of men rather than one or two million, with increases during the next two or three years, and even for some time after the war is over, in our fields and in the mines, and China can supply the number and many more richly experienced in rice growing, sugar planting, grain cultivating and mining. It would of course be impossible to bring across the sea within a few months the millions now needed, but the immediate action Dr. Hillis urges would go far toward relieving present conditions, and continuing the utilization of all available ships, which is his recommendation, in fair time all our needs will be fully satisfied. Just a year ago in this hall I commented upon the evils then attendant upon the high price of wheat, which had just reached $2 a bushel, and I will repeat just one paragraph from that address as in line with the suggestion of Dr. Hillis:

We need not open our doors wide, but could take in each year a sufficient number to supply the industrial requirements. We do not create or develop a labor class of our own, but in all the history of the country have depended upon foreign lands to supply that need, beginning with the importation of the negro slave.

History tells us that the greatest prosperity of this country has been when we have had $1 wheat, ten cent cotton, five cent sugar and $5 coal. We now have $2 wheat and over, twenty cent cotton and higher, sugar approaching ten cents a pound and coal at the exorbitant price of $10 a ton, to the injury of even the producers of these commodities and to the benefit only of the food and fuel speculators. The burden is greatest and the suffering most keen among those of moderate income.

In the readjustment which shall follow this conflict there will be a reckoning for those nations which have not met all moral issues frankly and courageously, and the opportunity is ours to attain the supremacy by the exercise of providence in the solution of the labor problem; but if we shall avoid the obligation that place in the sun will be lost to us forever.

It is asked what will become of the men whose places the Oriental will take, and my answer is: There is labor at a higher wage for every man now working in the mines, for every hand now employed in the wheat field, the cotton field and on the rice and sugar plantations, in the manufacturing concerns crying for help at better pay. With $1 wheat, ten cent cotton, five cent sugar and $5 coal, which the employment of the Chinese will insure, we shall not only win this war, but will leave to posterity a heritage of honor and credit and not of dishonor and everlasting debt.

I ask for frankness of the press in dealing with this question and courage of our statesmen in giving us the legislation which shall accomplish the full purpose. Finally, I take hope in the hour from the address of our President made in Buffalo November 12, especially these words:

If we are true friends of freedom—our own or anybody else's—we will see that the power of this country is raised to its absolute maximum and that absolutely nobody is allowed to stand in the way of it.

NO ELBA!

After a Hundred Years There Must Be No Hundred Days.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One hundred years ago, at Fontainebleau, near Paris, the allied troops in force along the banks of the Seine, Napoleon Bonaparte, conquered after a score of years, penned the following:

The Allied Powers having proclaimed that the Emperor Napoleon is the only obstacle to the reestablishment of peace in Europe, the Emperor Napoleon, faithful to his oath, declares that he renounces for himself and his heirs the thrones of France and Italy, and that there is no personal sacrifice, even that of life, which he is not ready to make for the interests of France.

Perhaps the time may not be near, but eventually come it shall, when the Prussian must yield as did the Corsican, and he must have no Elba; it must be St. Helena the first time! G. H. M.

SYRACUSE, November 22.

Polite Inquiry Concerning Certain Teachers.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I notice that Abraham Lefkowitz, a member of the New York School Teachers Union, denounced as "the blackest and foulest lies" charges by a responsible (and American) member of your public school organization made against Samuel Schmalhausen, Joseph Jablonower and Morris Barasch, three teachers recently transferred for alleged un-Americanism. The three, according to press reports of a recent meeting in your city, denounced their accusers as "character assassins," and asserted that the accused were "to face a packed jury."

When "an officer of the Supreme Court and a taxpayer" sought to defend the responsible (though American) member of your public school organization the friends of teachers Abraham Lefkowitz, Samuel Schmalhausen, Joseph Jablonower and Morris Barasch assailed the court official with cries of "Put him out!" "Kick him out!" "Lynch him!"

May I not have the privilege of inquiring how New York city's school teachers are appointed and by whom?

RUTGERS.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., November 23.

Watery.

Knicker—What is worrying you?
Subbubs—I'm wondering whether we really shouldn't forbid beautiful Swamphurst to Germans.

ERIE CANAL GRANDEUR.

Was Solid Silver Used on the Tables of the Old Boats?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Were the Quinebaug, Utica and Norwich on the North River Line or the Norwich Line, or were they Erie Canal passenger boats?

Is it true that the Erie Canal boats and possibly other steamboat lines were fitted up with such magnificence as to have large outfits of forks and spoons of solid silver?

It is also said that silver was so used in the Gulf of Mexico about the time of the civil war that officers of the navy serving in those waters bought mess outfits of real silver. Can any one tell?

M. E. TOWER.

NEWPORT, R. I., November 23.

Paying German Officer Prisoners.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your editorial article explains fully why our Government takes such good care of German prisoners, but the Herald *Times* said that the German officers received the same pay that Americans received from our Government and were paid by the United States.

Can you give us any information on this subject, and by what authority are salaries are paid? A. C. [illegible]

BETHLEHEM, Pa., November 23.

It is the custom generally observed by nations at war to grant to officer prisoners the pay and allowances of their rank. If Germany does not observe it by paying American officers captured we shall doubtless do so. These matters all rest with the State Department and are made by custom and courtesy, reciprocal when they obtain.

The Late Theodore Moore.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is with sincere regret that I learn of the death of Mr. Theodore Moore. Mr. Moore as its financial editor THE SUN had the advantage of the services of one whose sterling character was only one of many gentlemanly qualities. Possessed of a brilliant mind and a broad and forceful grasp of financial affairs his death will be keenly felt by those who, like myself, had the privilege of knowing his remarkable qualities of mind as well as simplicity of taste and esteemed his friendship at its true value.

J. FRANK HOPKINS.

NEW YORK, November 23.