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If the thing is conceivable, suppose the war was on this side of the ocean, and Germany were our ally, entering or about to enter the conflict with a common foe. Suppose that one of the highest and most intelligent officers of the German command, General VON LUDENDORFF, for instance, had just returned to headquarters after a personal inspection of conditions at the front in America. Does any human being believe that a week, a day, an hour would pass without the urgent summoning of General VON LUDENDORFF to the presence of a Kaiser eager for every detail of information which the General could give him? But the Kaiser is an autocrat. Is it because the Kaiser is an autocrat that President WILSON studiously avoids doing in the case of General LEONARD WOOD that which WILLIAM II. would most certainly do in the case of VON LUDENDORFF? Or is it merely because the President prefers to keep his mind clear of military facts until Secretary BAKER reports?

Two Kinds of Godsaking.

The Hon. THOMAS R. MARSHALL, whose wit and wisdom and shrewd common sense do not emerge often enough from the routine duties of the Senate chair, made a speech in New York night before last in which he denounced "street corner" criticism of war administration. The Vice-President said:

"There have been, I suppose, an infinite number of errors. There always are errors in war, but any man who devotes himself to pointing out these errors and does nothing to aid in the betterment of conditions when opportunity is given him is unworthy the privilege of citizenship."

Mr. MARSHALL was referring, we suppose, to the sort of criticism which the *World* aptly terms "Godsaking." As our neighbor remarks, people who are forever wringing their hands and crying "For God's sake do something!" will not drive a single rivet in a ship or transport a solitary soldier across the Atlantic.

But how is it, Mr. Vice-President, in the case of citizens who are giving their dollars and are ready to give their last dollar to speed up the war? How is it in the case of those who are giving the lives of their brothers, their husbands, their sons that the war may be won? Have they no right to point out these errors, to demand their correction, to criticise the waste of time, of money, of effort, of life?

It must seem to Vice-President MARSHALL, on second thought, that a good many millions of his fellow citizens have fairly earned the right to say, "For God's sake do something!"

Making a Good Job of a Bad One.

There were dark hints in the Senate aircraft debate almost as disturbing as the deplorable revelation of failure itself. Senator POINDEXTER'S speech fairly bristled with "secret, unknown influences," with "mysterious blights" thwarting aircraft production, and with other depressing confidences of "a gentleman high in the Aircraft Production Board." The Senator even went so far as to say that it is not the intention of the aircraft administration to make battle planes.

The Senate debate only too thoroughly cleared things in one quarter while it obscured them in another. It gave us a transitory but painfully distinct view of the thirty-seven aircraft performance of a 20,000 aircraft promise. Then it plunged us into this fog of dark insinuation through which looms the vague outline of some malign form of "secret influence" and "mysterious blight."

And Senator BORAH read from the Borglum report that which gives even more ominous proportions of this fog enveloped Thing of Evil that is threatening us. According to this report there is a "predetermination to thwart the efforts of the nation."

Surely it cannot be expected that the country will permit suggestions so alarming to rest where these Senators have left them. A fog of veiled generalities will not do. There must be names and specifications. If there is "a predetermination to thwart the efforts of the nation," who is it who has so predetermined? If the aircraft administration has no intention of building battle planes, why has it so decided and who is responsible for the decision? What is the "mysterious blight" and what are the "mysterious influences" that are thwarting aircraft production?

To these questions the public will demand definite answers. And such answers should be readily attainable. The field of inquiry is sufficiently circumscribed to admit of thorough exploration. There need be no fear for the nerves of the American people. They may not be "enthused," as the Senator plaintively put it, by the revelations, but of a certainty they will prefer knowledge of a present danger, however grave, to a fool's paradise of windbag enthusiasm. If it prove to be only a case of soiled linen washing, why, we seem to be pretty well committed anyway to a rather full line of laundry work of that sort under pitiless publicity illumination, and we may as well make a good job of what at the best is a bad one, and so have done with it.

To-morrow We Steal 100,000,000 Hours From the Night.

When THOMAS MOORE wrote the sensible lines in which he said

"And the best of all ways
To lengthen our days
Is to steal a few hours from the night, my dear,"

the plan of our distinguished fellow countryman BENJAMIN FRANKLIN for saving daylight was a long way from practical application to the affairs of life, but before the sun rises again 100,000,000 hours and more—reckoning sixty minutes each for every American—will have been stolen from the night, and the theft will be repeated in each revolution of the earth until well after the autumnal equinox. For seven months we shall enjoy the benefits of our burglarious attack on Father TIME, and as that unregulated old monopolist will lose nothing he values we shall make use of the booty with clear consciences.

The pilferers have an absurdly easy course to pursue. All that they must do is to set the hands of their timepieces ahead at 2 o'clock to-morrow morning, if they sit up that late, or, if they go to bed at a reasonable hour, when they are ready to turn in. Those who adopt the latter plan should sleep uninterruptedly until the long hand is at 12 and the short hand at 3, for in the interval between the advancing of their clocks and watches and 2 o'clock on Sunday morning they will be out of step with the master clock at the Naval Observatory. Sound sleep to all of them.

We leave to efficiency experts the adjustment of the time records of those night workers who begin their labors in the evening, say at 10 o'clock, and work eight hours of sixty minutes each. They will appear to have been at their tasks for nine hours, and some of them may attempt to collect for the extra hour. If they can get the money, well and good; if they cannot, no harm will be done. Our sympathy is excited only by the difficulties that to the lay mind would seem to beset the train despatchers. What will become of the train scheduled to leave to-morrow morning at 2:30 o'clock? Undoubtedly the expert transporation men who control traffic have worked this puzzle out; and they have also decided how the 2 o'clock and the 3 o'clock trains are to depart without conflict with the impenetrability of matter.

Such questions concern only a few of the 100,000,000 daylight savers. They need not bother us. Most of us will go to bed at the usual time to-night, our watches falsely representing us as having turned in an hour later than we do, and will wake up on Sunday in ample time to eat our Easter eggs in comfort and get to church on time.

The Rising Generation.

Professor WILLIAM LYON PHELPS of Yale University is convinced that the young men of to-day possess a greater power of endurance than their predecessors of ancient times. Of Americans in particular he said to the members of the American Academy of Arts and Letters:

"This war has proved that our modern young men, in spite of the so-called ease and luxuries of the day, are made of the stuff of their fathers of 1776.

"If it be true that our young men have lived amid modern luxuries, then I submit to you that their cheerfulness in sacrifice is all the greater because of that. People suppose that luxury has made the whole race degenerate, but that is not my belief."

The opinion that the race is deteriorating, and has reached an alarming stage of degeneracy, is held by comparatively few persons, who look at only a few of the facts, and on them erect a lopsided edifice of despair. They assume that all the young men of to-day seek the enervating and debilitating "ease and luxuries" that mark the lives of a few exceptionally situated young men, who deem themselves fortunate, but are in fact most unfortunate; and that none of the young men of the past day with whom comparisons are made were luxury loving, soft or dissipated. To them all young men of the present generation have been typified by a few debauchees, and all young men of their chosen golden age have delighted in the Spartan virtues.

The same ridiculous generalizations mark a great deal of the solemn writing that concerns itself with American young women. Most of it is utterly ridiculous. It is based on the assumption that a few light headed girls, ill trained and running wild, give the true measure of American young womanhood. The dissertations based on this premise are so numerous that nobody would pretend to have kept track of them, and as false as they are numerous. Their authors have sought out the abnormal, labelled it normal, and then proceeded to exhaust their vocabularies in denunciations that were as lacking in wit as they were in reason.

One of the most conspicuous offenders against good sense in this particular kind of generalization is that famous bell wether of pacifists Dr. DAVID STARR JORDAN, who took a hasty look at a few French persons whose admitted deficiencies made them conspicuous in his vision, and then went about distributing his cocksure message that the French were a hopelessly degenerate race. He should be convinced by this time that his outgivings were preposterous nonsense. To the world, to the French themselves, his enlightenment is of no consequence, but THE SUN would extract a moment's cheer from the knowledge that Dr. JORDAN had reduced his store of ignorance through study of the war.

As for the youngsters of to-day, men and women, they are sound physically, mentally, morally and spiritually, and the oldsters need have no fear of the results of their administration of world affairs. They will make a better job of it than any of their predecessors.

"We Must Strip for Action."

General MARCH, the Acting Chief of Staff, has warned his fellow countrymen that they "must strip for action."

He is right.

We must strip from the facts of the situation the camouflage of misstatement, unfounded assurance and baseless confidence that has been sedulously applied to them by persons more desirous of immediate applause for themselves than concern over the ultimate welfare of the country.

We must quit talking vague generalities about our unlimited resources in men and raw materials, and get down to undoctored statistics of soldiers, sailors and the completed engines of war.

We must clear the air of meaningless chatter about the blue print potentialities of goods unavailable for the combat we are engaged in, and enlighten ourselves with the unimpeachable records of goods actually turned out and consigned to the transportation systems of the country for delivery where they are needed.

We must rid our minds of the notion that the pen with which the President signed the declaration of war against Germany was a magic wand that transformed notoriously inefficient job holders, whose only claim to place was their political slickness, into highly trained, superbly equipped specialists, capable of attacking successfully intricate problems of industry, transportation and strategy without further schooling or preparation.

We must cease to heed the outgivings of interested incompetents who raise the cry that critics are traitors, that those who discern shortcomings are tools of treason and that those who demand the facts are Judas Iscariots.

We must indeed strip for action; and the false impressions and carefully cultivated ignorance that now restrain our strength are the first things we must cast aside.

The Time to Tickle the Earth.

Every amateur farmer, every backyard gardener, is about this time of year puzzled by the question: When is it time to begin? Sometimes, impatient to open the earth and too proud or too diffident to ask questions of the experienced, he ruins his garden by turning the soil too soon. It would be well if he would understand that the doubt which disturbs him is one that has annoyed man since ADAM delved without the aid of a guidebook.

The superintendent of the Dominion experimental farm at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, sent the old question to many farmers:

"Will you tell the boys how you decide when to start on the land in preparation for spring planting?"

The answer received from the largest number of farmers who replied was delightfully human:

"When the neighbors start."

The more independent souls gave a variety of replies:

"When there is no gloss on the rod from the mouldboard."

"When the horses do not sink on the land."

"When you see the land steaming."

"If, when you drive your heel into the ground, turn it around and pull it up, it does not suck."

"When you lie down on the ground and feel it warm."

"When you see dry spots on the surface."

"When you see the grass getting green."

"When the harrows do not clog."

"When the fences appear to be dancing."

The last and most poetic of the replies quoted will not seem absurd to those who have observed the illusion caused by hot, moist air rising in waves from the earth and making stationary objects seem to tremble or dance.

Mr. CLARK, who conducted the questionnaire, is of the opinion that the best answer is this:

"Take a handful of soil, squeeze it in your hand, and if it still crumbles when the hand is opened the field is ready to be worked."

We recommend this method to our gardening friends, for it has the approval of most old farmers. But when the amateur lives in a place where there are old timers he may do well also to turn a sly eye in the direction of experienced men and begin his operations "when the neighbors start."

Who sets his watch ahead to-day will catch his train without delay.

The perfect loyalty of the German American Alliance has been attested by former Congressman BARTHOLDT of St. Louis. Just who stands for Mr. BARTHOLDT is not stated.—*The World.*

Mr. BARTHOLDT is vouched for by the famous historian BARTHOLDT, who discovered that Baron VON STEUBEN was sent to this country by FREDERICK the Great, and he, in turn, is heartily indorsed by the man who saw the sword that FREDERICK the Great presented to WASHINGTON. The German American Alliance gives its unqualified sanction to all of them, which obviously and automatically closes the discussion.

HYLAN goes away on another holiday trip.—*Evening Post headline.*

This is tempting weather, but his Honor may be expected back soon. As Chairman STRAUS's friend HORACE says:

"At Rome you hanker for your country home;
Once in the country there's no place like Rome."

If Miss Spring has any sense of responsibility she will provide for the departure of March the kind of weather she furnished for her numerous patrons so far this week.

An hour lost to-night brings the golfers delight.

DAYLIGHT SAVING.

A Dream of What the Clocks Think About It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* This is what I dreamed:

"I suppose there's no help for it," said Grandfather's Clock in the front hall, between a tick and a tock, "but it comes hard at my age to be expected to lie people out of bed when they want to lie longer. I haven't heard of anybody calling on my old friend Sun Dial to do anything of the sort."

"Where do you get that stuff about you and Sun Dial being friends? You never agree with him," said the Ormolu Clock in the parlor with a French accent and pert utterance.

"Well, we have our little differences at times," admitted the veteran, "but there is a gentleman's agreement between us. He is of the old school and goes entirely by appearances when he goes at all, so he is naturally wrong most of the time according to exact horological science, but he is as honest as the day even if he does take his nights off, and nothing would induce him to record the hours falsely as a matter of expediency."

"Expediency is all there is to it," exclaimed the Alarm Clock in the bedroom, breaking in rudely, as his habit is. "The only thing these humans seem to think a clock is for is to tell 'em when to get up. And then, half the time, they throw boots at us. I'm so used to being set back and set forward according to the master's whim that I've grown entirely indifferent to the actual verities."

"There are no verities," said the Repeater, chiming in softly, as if his mechanism had been disturbed. "There isn't a timepiece on earth more conscientious than I am, but every time I'm taken on a journey I find myself going wrong. I have to be set every day according to where I am. You all seem to think that because it was 6 A. M. an hour ago it must be 7 A. M. now, but I have often seen A. M. and P. M. so mixed up that you couldn't tell one from the other."

"Travellers' tales," said Grandfather's Clock, complacently. "That's all of a piece with what you sometimes hear about the world moving. I've stood right here for a hundred years, and I know better. It stands to reason that if the world had moved in all that time I'd be somewhere else by now."

"Yes, and you'd have to change your face to be in fashion," murmured the Repeater. But this remark was lost in the hubbub when the Cuckoo Clock on the wall burst wide open and the Cuckoo came out with a whir.

"Any fool knows," said the Cuckoo, indignantly, "that when it's high noon there's no sense in calling it 1 o'clock; but if all the fools get together and insist on calling their folly wisdom there's only one thing for us to do."

And taking this outbreak as a signal they all went on strike, and I woke up.

DAVID A. CURTIS.

NEW YORK, March 29.

Are We Doing Our Utmost?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Are we doing our utmost to send troops to France? Every Allied ship leaving these shores can carry some men and thus in the aggregate the capacity of the transports to get men across can be largely increased. Are we doing this?

NEW YORK, March 29. H. W. S.

The Critics of the Administration.

From the New York Herald.

Mr. Roosevelt's arraignment of phrase making—of word slinging as a means of warfare—expresses the thought uppermost in the minds of all thinking Americans.

From the New York Times.

They are not judicious friends of the Administration who attack as "partisanship" inquiries or criticisms that are made by Democrats as well as Republicans.

From the New York Tribune.

Colonel Roosevelt's is that ardent and somewhat impetuous Americanism, aggressive, impatient, which would throw the whole nation's energy into the struggle without a moment's hesitation or reserve. The political party in power is not of the Rooseveltian stamp or kind.

The Pyramid.

I used to think artistic muscles
Found exercise alone in tussles
Which sent appreciable rusties
Through fields Elysian.

Become a more recondite cleric
Of art, I sought a loftier derrick,
And to effusions esoteric
Signed me Olympian.

But now appears the superstandard
To which all others have but pandered—
I can't be great till I've meandered
In groves Bilshemian.

STANLEY K. WILSON.

TICKLE THE SOIL.

But Let Us Learn From the Mistakes Made Last Year in War Gardens.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* After a long season's hibernation, now awakens the advocate of war gardening, full fledged, like Minerva, to enlist waiting cohorts of the amateur wielders of the rake and hoe, though, as the great Gustavus Adolphus once remarked, don't forget the spade. What a disordered campaign of fruitless endeavor in the agricultural line was that of last summer. Who will have the courage to disclose statistics of the results of those sporadic ventures?

They remind one of the typical church fair, the faithful and misdirected effort and the more often than otherwise meagre and disheartening financial return.

In the several communities, say, in Westchester county, the enterprise was largely a fad, faltering half way between seedtime and harvest. There was lacking sine qua non, simple, elementary instruction as to the work to be done, first convenience of location of land offered, its arableness or other possible conditions for use and its adaptability for raising in this order potatoes, carrots, parsnips, beets, onions and corn; these are staples and give prolific return, properly cultivated, and may be stored for winter, a great desideratum.

In very small space at hand, any one should be able to raise early in the season an ample family supply of radishes, lettuce and, with more ground, cabbage. There was swampy and stony ground, land in practically inaccessible locations for those presumably to be benefited by its use. There was land which had never had material cultivation, entirely unavailable under the circumstances. Here was a fatality of lost motion at the start.

I was told by a real farmer member of the Bedford Farmers Club, the alpha and omega of agricultural authority in Westchester county, that he knew of land offered for growing potatoes and listed as open for all comers that was absolutely unfit for such cultivation. In brief, then, if this desirable work is to be renewed let it be begun under more practical auspices, first as to fitting and available sites for field gardening, thus giving the ambitious amateur his fair start, for thenceforward he will have enough to do.

The ground must be ploughed or in the case of small areas thoroughly spaded; at the same time some good stable manure, the best form of fertilizer, should be mixed in with the soil at ploughing, and manure or other commercial substitute is costly, but absolutely essential to success.

The seed, which should be at least good of its kind, is an important and costly factor also, and there is much poor, unreliable seed on the market. I have the circular before me of a substantial seed dealer in which, speaking of corn, he says: "Eighty per cent. of seed corn now on the market is of low germination and unfit for seed purposes." To be sure, he is blowing his own corn, so to speak, but the statement is nevertheless startling.

It is not intended here to ridicule or discourage this very desirable industry, but on the contrary I would urge intelligent participation in it upon every one to whom opportunity may come with inclination and determination to succeed. The coming winter of this year is likely to be a poignant season for food supply. To many this work properly undertaken can be made to be quite profitable, besides the pleasure attending even measurable success, while on the other hand the to many unusual physical exercise attending the service of those useful adjuncts, the rake, the hoe and the spade, will bring real pleasure and a profit in a healthful recreation; but let the old adage be remembered: What is worth doing must be well done.

JOHN Y. CULYER.

NEW YORK, March 29.

RAFTERING ICE.

Would a Pontoon Bridge Hold the Hudson River Floes?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I was much interested in an article in THE SUNDAY SUN of January 20, which has only recently reached me, describing Mr. Adams's proposed scheme for the retention in the areas where it forms of the Hudson River ice, thus to insure navigation from obstruction thereby of the North and East Rivers and of New York upper bay.

There is certainly great promise in Mr. Adams's proposed scheme, and if it prove effective, as I hope it may, an enormous measure of benefit will accrue to the Port of New York.

Mr. Adams strengthens his contention as to the feasibility of holding the drifting river ice by a pontoon bridge by quoting the case of the Erie pier. But it may possibly be that Mr. Adams's experience of the action of ice in raftering, i. e., piling up, when obstructed, as he states happens on the up river bays of the Erie pier, may not have been sufficiently varied to show him that the action of ice raftering against a floating pontoon bridge will be materially different from what occurs when ice rafters against the face of a pier rigidly connected to the river bed.

In the latter case, if the wind continues from an upriver point sufficiently long, and there be drift ice enough to come down, it will accumulate against the face of the pier and pile up; but as it piles up it must also inevitably pile downward; but it will still be held by the pier and will freeze into a monolithic mass that will help to arrest the pressure of further accumulations and relieve the pier in great measure from the thrust thereof.

But when ice rafters against pontoons drawing, probably, not more than ten to twelve feet of water, and connected as a bridge, and piles up against their sides to a height of four to five feet, it has at the same time to pile downward as well to the level of their keels, and any further piling up results in further sinking the submerged ice so that it will escape beneath the bottoms of the pontoons. Once this limit of height is reached no further accretion takes place, as the water pressure will continue to force all further drift ice that may come down, if it come in sufficient mass, beneath the inclined plane that the first rafter has formed between the pontoon bottoms and the river surface.

If there be nothing in the local characteristics of the Hudson River ice rafters to interfere with or nullify the usual action of raftering ice I would fear that this would happen, and thus the value of the whole scheme be seriously discounted. J. F. D.

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland, March 12.

Spring Signs.

Dennor correspondence Oneida Dispatch.

The robins and song sparrows are singing again and the sap is running good wherever trees are tapped.

A Disgusted Bird.

The Eagle—Heavens! I've been sitting on this nest a year and only hatched one airplane.

THE CURTAILED ANTHEM.

At a Regimental Review an Auditor Is Surprised.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At some of the amusement places where they have music it has been the practice for some time past to play the national anthem as part of the programme.

The natural thing to do, if not to sing the words aloud (which, sad to say, is seldom done), is at least to think the words, but one finds frequently that the stirring strains of "The Star Spangled Banner" when fitted to words fall short a couple of lines, as the musicians cut out that much of a verse. This is perhaps another indication of American speed (?) or possibly is due to the cunning of alien musicians.

It is bad enough to have the length of a verse cut short in amusement places where possibly it is played by enemy aliens in the guise of musicians, but the most recent instance of this curtailment occurred on Wednesday evening at the preliminary review and regimental drill of the new Seventh Regiment, where after the ceremony of evening parade, when "retreat" had been sounded by the bugles, the band began playing "The Star Spangled Banner," as is customary at such occasions. Who would think that on the drill floor of such a military organization the band would curtail the national anthem? But this is exactly what happened, as any one following the words through found that the words did not fit the music.

NEW YORK, March 29. JAYEES.

THE SOURCE OF DELAYS.

Eleventh Hour Changes in Ship and Airplane Plans.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Senator Overman says that the aeroplane delay is due to the spies in the factory.

No; it is not due to the spies in the factory, but to the voices close to the heads of departments, who change plans and cause delays that the manufacturers know to be senseless.

Why not investigate these eleventh hour changes?

Why let shipbuilders go to Texas so that they may be near the wood and then order a different kind from the other end of the United States?

Why change the lengths of the ships but a fraction? Why order that they be finished at the shipyard when the builders know they can be done better elsewhere and make room for more ships?

Why not go to the Government contractors and ask for lists of senseless changes?

Investigate them, find the real spies.

With Choate's dying words, "For God's sake hurry up," we have been trying to experiment, instead of using the enormous experience of the Allies.

No, the spies are not in the factory causing the delay.

The trouble is near the source of power. INVESTIGATE.

NEW YORK, March 29.

WHAT HO, B. TARKINGTON!

Attend to This Hoosier's Fling at the Writers of Indiana.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The massive caption of a recent editorial article in the Cincinnati *Enquirer* was "Simplicity the Ultimate Goal." There we are magniloquently taught that we should omit all unnecessary words, as though what we write were to be cabled across the ocean. The verbal Moses of the *Enquirer* has manifestly caught a magnificent view of the Promised Land of correct language from the mountain top of intellectuality, but, like the Moses of ancient Israel, sin is certain to prevent his entering therein.

According to the scientific laws of Spencer and in harmony with the spiritual vision of Tolstoy, we cannot escape altogether the immorality and stupidity of our environment and heredity. The scientific theory of perfect language which the *Enquirer* has so profoundly stated is a mighty revelation of truth, but it would be miscalculation to suppose that said famous publication could soar to such cold regions of practice. As a goal is always ultimate, the *Enquirer* violates its theory of concise utterance when it uses the term "ultimate goal."

"The language we use" should be called "a hideous patois." The name of our imbecile country is the United States, and if villainous taste is permissible, say "these united states," but do not capitalize it as "these United States," for that is not the name of our nation.

I happen to be a native of Indiana, but if that State has one writer who uses decent language, I have not heard of him. O. Henry and Joseph Addison are about the only respectable users of words. Addison educated Allison.

C. ALLISON.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, March 28.

THE MILITARY SOUTHPAW.

Grave Problems in the School of the Soldier.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* What do they do with the left handed man in the army? I. N. VESTIGATOR.

NEW ROCHELLE, March 29.

TRADE BRIEFS.

Consul W. E. Chapman reports that about three hundred cars of tomatoes will be available for import from the Mazatlan, Mexico, consular district into this country during the present season. Mexican planters have sustained heavy losses because of the use of inferior seed, and it is suggested that a careful study of the requirements of the farmers would result in an increased demand for high grade American seed. There is also a market for modern farming tools, especially tomato planters.

It is said that Danish fishermen have used fish oil with considerable success in operating the motors of their small craft. Experts state that Diesel motors can be driven as well with fish oil as with any other fuel. It is more inexpensive than other fuel, being prepared by the consumers themselves as it is needed.

There is a market in South Africa for brass lamps. Illustrations of the kind of lamps needed may be seen at the local office of the Foreign and Domestic Commerce Bureau, 734 Custom House, this city, by reference to File No. 1876.

Machines for making tablets and pills are in demand in Mexico. Catalogues are requested.

Buenos Aires presents a market for the sale of nickel plated bathroom accessories.

Catalogues of woven wire fence, posts and fence stretchers have been asked for by an American consular officer in South America.

Swiss merchants are in the market for sporting goods of all kinds.

Imports into Costa Rica in 1917 amounted to $5,595,240, a decrease of about $1,000,000 from the 1916 total. Exports increased from $11,121,172 in 1916 to $11,382,166 in 1917.

Machinery for the making of corn oil is wanted in Jamaica.

There is an opportunity in Australia for the sale of materials for making and repairing watches and optical goods.

THE APPROACHING SENATE VOTE ON THE SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

Sentiment in the South as Indicated by Events in Texas and Elsewhere—The Women and the Senators.

The most remarkable instance of progress in woman suffrage since New York enfranchised women last November was the granting of primary suffrage by the Texas Legislature to the women of that State March 22. The bill passed the House on March 15 by 84 ayes, 34 noes, after an amendment to provide separate polling places for white and colored women was defeated. The Senate adopted it a week later by a vote of 17 to 4, with four members paired, but added two amendments, one that after this year women must pay the poll tax required of men, the other that in order to vote in 1918 they must register fifteen days before election. The women were not kept in suspense, for the House concurred immediately by viva voce vote, which was greeted with applause. As the committee of suffragists who had been in attendance every day since the session opened rose to leave the gallery the Representatives rose also and gave them a round of hearty cheers.

The Governor signed the bill March 26. It provides that "any woman who possesses the qualifications required of electors shall have the right to vote at all primary elections and nominating conventions." In a State which has practically but one party this is equivalent to the full suffrage, as after the choice is made at the primaries the election is only a matter of form. It is the same kind of a law that was enacted a year ago by the Legislature of Arkansas, under which the women will vote for the first time at the primary elections in May. It includes a vote for all local and State officials, members of the Legislature, members of Congress and Presidential electors, and is much broader in its scope than the one under which the women of Illinois vote.

The reason these two Southern Legislatures did not give the suffrage at final elections as well as primaries is because this would have required an amendment to the Constitution, which would have to be referred to the voters, and a good deal of educational work should first be done. The object lesson of the actual experiment will be more effective than any campaign which could be made, but probably a Federal amendment will render it unnecessary ever to amend their State Constitutions. Even more significant than the action of the Arkansas Legislature is that of Texas, as it is a thoroughly Southern State while Arkansas is largely permeated with Western ideas. Texas marks a distinct break in the "solid South" on the question of votes for women, and it will make the largest white spot that has ever been put on the "suffrage map." Her women have won a great victory.

Susan B. Anthony's attitude toward the women of the South was a good deal like President Wilson's now toward the people of Russia—she did not get discouraged. During the long years when they could not be persuaded to take any interest in suffrage she always said: "When once they are aroused they will have it and nothing can prevent." A group of them in every State are now very wide awake and those of Texas have been in the lead. The singular feature has been the quick conversion of Southern women to the method of a Federal amendment. They were as much opposed to it as were the men seven or eight years ago when they began organizing and working. They believed in the State's right to control the suffrage and fully expected that they could get it for the asking. The movement in the South has always been in the hands of able and representative women, and yet, although the Legislature of every Southern State has been repeatedly petitioned to submit the question to the voters, every one has refused, and some of them more than once, Louisiana six times. It did not take the women long to see the rank injustice of the demand that they should look to the State for their enfranchisement and the refusal to give them their only chance.

At the Atlantic City National Suffrage Convention in September, 1916, the delegates from twelve Southern States voted in favor of a Federal amendment and have advocated it ever since. Every State association in the South is working for this amendment. A Southern States association organized for the express purpose of getting the suffrage through the States, which maintained an excellent paper, went out of existence over a year ago. Southern Senators who are holding out against this amendment are doing so directly contrary to the wishes of the women of their States, and they know it. At the time the vote on a Federal amendment was taken in the lower house of Congress last January letters and telegrams indorsing it were sent from the presidents of the State suffrage associations of twelve Southern States. A petition signed by 10,000 women went from Florida. Eight State associations of women in Texas besides those organized for suffrage demanded it. Forty-three Representatives from Southern States, including Oklahoma, voted for the amendment.

This pressure much increased is now being made on the Senate. Twenty-two Southern Senators (Delaware included) are counted as opposing the amendment and none of them has any proof that he represents the sentiment of the women of his State or even of the most intelligent. Take the two from North Carolina, for example, Senators Overman and Simmons. Petitions signed by hundreds of women have been sent them including the college women from 16 cities and towns, among them Peace Institute, the oldest Presbyterian college for women, of which Mrs. Overman and Mrs. Josephus Daniels are graduates. Its petition was signed by all but eleven of the present students and all but two of the faculty. In Meredith Baptist College all the faculty but one and 200 women students signed the petition. In the State Normal School it was signed by 576 of the 650 students. Senator Simmons's two married daughters were among the petitioners.

The situation is the same with the Senators from South Carolina. Hundreds of the faculty members and students of Coker, Converse and Anderson Colleges have sent petitions, and that from Winthrop, of which Senator Tillman is a trustee, contained the names of 845 of the 1,000 teachers and students. The same story could be told in regard to all of the Southern Senators. At least ten are pledged to vote for the amendment, and it is almost certain that several others will do so.

A striking illustration of the change in sentiment is seen in the attitude of the Southern press. There is scarcely a city in the States where one or more influential papers are not urging a Federal suffrage amendment. This is especially noticeable in Texas, and the result is now manifest. After it has been submitted by Congress it will not face a solid array of hostile Legislatures in the Southern States.

IDA HUSTED HARPER,
Editorial Chairman Leslie Suffrage Bureau.

NEW YORK, March 29.

CONKLING THE "ME TOO."

He Told Platt Not to Be "Too Hasty" About Resigning.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* My old friend Ed Mott is perfectly correct in maintaining that Roscoe Conkling and not Thomas C. Platt was the "Me Too" of 1881.

The proof appears in "The Autobiography of Thomas Collier Platt," of which I am the editor and compiler. On page 150 Senator Platt writes:

Inasmuch as the Collectorship was the most desirable and lucrative New York office within the gift of the President, Conkling and myself naturally were inclined to resent Robertson's (William H.) nomination. I had been portrayed as a "Me Too" and "Echo" and "Dromio" of Conkling. It has been an impression among my critics that I merely followed the example of Conkling in exhibiting my protestations by resigning from the Senate.

These are the facts. When I was informed that Robertson's nomination had been submitted to the Senate, I went to the desk and examined the official document. I considered it a gratuitous insult to the New York Republican organization. I walked over to Conkling and said: "I shall send my resignation to Governor Cornell to-night."

Conkling, with a look of impatience, turned upon me and replied: "Young man, do not be too hasty about this matter." We then went to the rear of the chamber and talked it over.

Conkling insisted that we should wait and fight it out in the committee to which the Robertson nomination had been referred. I replied: "We have been so humiliated as United States Senators from the great State of New York that there is but one thing for us to do—to make the President by immediately turning in our resignations and then appeal to the Legislature to sustain us."

I finally induced Conkling, May 16, to join me in offering our joint resignations. He made up his mind after Vice-President Arthur and Postmaster-General James, the only member of the Garfield Cabinet from New York, had voiced their protests along with Governor Cornell and other New York Republican leaders.

LOUIS J. LEFEVRE.

NEW YORK, March 29.

Poquonoc Sees an Early Spring.

From the New London Day.

The fact that red winged blackbirds have been seen in flocks in the vicinity of Poquonoc leads naturewise prophets to declare in favor of an early spring. The red winged blackbird, it is said, does not follow the habit of other harbingers of spring, so called, the robin and bluebird, of remaining deep hidden in the woods during the winter, but really does go to warm weather in the South. It is said they are a never failing sign of warm, settled weather.

All the Details.

From the Waldron Advance Reporter.

John Hensley happened to a bad accident in time of the big snow. He was playing on the ice and it broke through with him and he went under and lost his pocketbook, but he found it after all.

THE BAT AND THE BATTLE.

Evidently Armageddon Will Not Have Been Won at the Polo Grounds.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I read the letter of Captain T. L. Hunter in THE SUN last Sunday and thoroughly agree with everything the Captain says. The captain lays considerable stress on the lack of patriotism shown in baseball circles and terms it a disgrace. It is astonishing that so few big league players have volunteered. Before we entered the war a number of pictures were published in various newspapers of baseball players in aviator suits, and appended to each was an article in which each player announced for what branch of the service he would select. I remember distinctly a photograph of Herzog, who at present is fighting for money he claims is due him from some baseball club, in which he is pictured as an aviator, and the article, if I recall correctly, said that he is anxious to serve his country in that capacity. He is yet to enlist.

I remember the pictures of Speaker Cobb, Fletcher, Schupp, Zimmerman, Binns, Robertson, Baker, Maisel, Maquard, Stengel and numerous other ball players, and also recall the statement of their choice in the service of Uncle Sam. But, as Captain Hunter says, the only fighting they have done since our country has been in the war near a year—is for more money.

True, Hank Gowdy, Mathewson and others have enlisted. And I am sure, however, in the statement that Gowdy is the only ball player who has seen where the real fighting is taking place. Am I not also correct in assuming that there are approximately 450 players in the National and American Leagues and that out of that number less than a per cent. have enlisted?

WILLIAM G. MORRIS.

NEW YORK, March 29.

Clearing the Decks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* All appreciate the great [illegible] suggested changes in the [illegible] the army and navy now under discussion.

Could not this genius be [illegible] at once in hopes that [illegible] on matters of lesser importance [illegible] more ships, airplanes, guns, [illegible]

MIDDLEBURY, Vt., March 29.

When Fish Are Bored.

From the Popular Science Monthly.

Blind blackfish, [illegible] relieve their yawning is a [illegible] of cod, saithe, pollack, plaice [illegible] other kinds of fish. [illegible] the phenomena seem to vary [illegible] human yawn, except that it [illegible] Nature. He says: "From [illegible] servations I am led to think that the action of fishes is a real yawn, [illegible] the true physiological purpose of a yawn, that is, flushing the brain with [illegible] ing periods of sluggishness.