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TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 2200.

A Week and Forever!

We commend to all patriots the Loyalty Week idea of the Mayor's Committee on National Defence. Too much cannot be done at this time in the way of verbal expression and visible and audible manifestation of the sentiment throbbing in every American heart:

God bless our flag, our Government representing that flag, our soldiers and sailors fighting for that flag!

And the Loyalty of the week is only one chapter of the Loyalty of the month, of the year, of all years; Loyalty till the end.

Let it manifest itself to-day and during the six days to come; but let it be an interminable serial.

Compulsory Work Laws.

The President has written a letter to the Governor of Maryland commending the compulsory work law recently enacted in that State, and expressing the hope that it will be possible to duplicate in other States of the Union the action and experience of Maryland.

At the same time President WILSON makes a statement which indicates that laws of this character are hardly needed. "Upon our entrance into the war," he says, "I called upon our citizens to mobilize their energies for its prosecution in every way that was possible. The response has been exceedingly gratifying. The slogan 'Work or Fight' has everywhere been taken up as a satisfactory expression of the spirit of the people. The instances of failure to appreciate its force and significance have been few."

If the failures have been few to heed the Presidential admonition to work or fight, would it not be safe enough to deal with "slackers" by means of the ordinary laws against vagrancy rather than to resort to a novel form of legislation, which the President himself admits is liable to possibilities of serious abuse?

To empower a magistrate to send to jail a citizen who supports himself and is amply able so to do out of moneys previously earned by himself just because for the time being the offender is not engaged in some "useful occupation" is to sanction a degree of governmental interference with personal rights such as has never heretofore been tolerated in this country. We are assured, however, that precisely this power may be exercised under the so-called "anti-loafing law" passed by the New York Legislature and presently to take effect under a proclamation by the Governor.

The multiplication of criminal laws is never to be approved except when demanded by the clearest necessity.

Our Visitors From Mexico.

The Mexican editors who are visiting the United States have come here at the earnest solicitation of the Government in order to get by personal observation an unbiased idea of the attitude of the United States toward their country. President WILSON has spoken to them officially, and expressed comprehensively and clearly the policy of the Administration, which embodies the hopes and ambitions of all Americans.

The other distinguished, and likewise the undistinguished, Americans whom they have met and will meet may be depended on to interpret the same policy in other words. Whatever oral communications can do to assure our guests of our national and popular disinterestedness and friendship will be well and adequately done. The practical expressions of our sentiment have been numerous and should be convincing.

Our Mexican friends have a difficult job in getting at the facts in the matter. They are exposed to an active German propaganda, operating industriously at the front doors of their offices. The United States was without diplomatic representation of high rank in Mexico for many months preceding the despatch of Ambassador FLETCHER to his post. The bandits of the border who bear arms and the bandits of the border who bear lies—both countries contribute to their ranks—are agents of misunderstanding constantly in motion. Various factors have combined to render a straight view of our national position and purposes hard to get.

We hope that the experiences of our Mexican brethren in Washington, New York and other communities of the United States they are to visit will be illuminating to their minds, and that their trip may be an unqualified success as a pleasure excursion and as diplomatic-political pilgrimage. Incidentally they are conferring on us a great favor, for they display a side of Mexican life not thrown into high relief by the promoters of civil war or the raiders on the borders, and it is a seriously unfortunate circumstance that for a good many years the turbulent and selfish spirits of Mexico have been more conspicuous in the news than the patriotic and cultured residents and leaders of that disturbed land.

"The Sun" and Senator Lewis.

The paragraph in THE SUN which has excited to amusing wrath the correspondent whose name will appear a few inches further down the column was about the naming of ships for Congressmen:

"James Hamilton Lewis would be a good name for a ship. So would J. Hamilton Lewis, or J. Ham Lewis, or Jimhamlewis, or Hamilton Lewis, or plain Ham Lewis. But are there four hundred or even four names as good as his in Congress? We doubt it."

This remark, wherein the philosophy of naval nomenclature is discussed from the point of view of affectionate regard for the distinguished gentleman named, has brought upon us the subjoined communication written on Western Union yellow:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I vigorously protest the undeserved ridicule of Senator JAMES HAMILTON LEWIS of Illinois which your editorial on the naming of the new ships serves as a means for so doing.

"Like so many easterners you choose to belittle Senator LEWIS because apparently your vision of ability, courage and statesmanship rarely even is seen in those west of Broadway.

"Senator LEWIS is a credit to the State from which he comes and to the Government, which he so conspicuously serves with continuously increasing tact, judgement and force for the good.

"Let THE SUN and other jesters on Senator LEWIS desire for neatness in his dress—cleanliness of his body (and effort for the public good) choose some of the real 'jokes' from your own State.

"I am a Republican from Illinois—never voted or worked for Senator LEWIS in either of his campaigns. I realize his true worth, however, and completely object to your discourtesy. You serve no good purpose thereby.

"FRANK T. FOWLER.

"NEW YORK, June 13."

Our types and our proofroom will "vigorously protest" both the orthographical and the syntactical departures notable in the foregoing sentences; but let that pass.

Mr. FRANK T. FOWLER must be either very immature in the matter of experience or sadly deficient in that sense of humor which, perhaps next to his vivid hair and whiskers, is the crowning glory of Senator LEWIS's amiable personality.

Is Mr. FOWLER unaware of the godfatherly relation existing between this newspaper and the statesman whose abilities and public usefulness he so properly admires, but so unnecessarily brings to our attention? Is he ignorant of the historical circumstances of early discovery, of ancient and constantly increasing friendship, of mutual understanding and genuine esteem, which give THE SUN peculiar rights to good natured freedom in its treatment of the Senator's name and fame? Does he not know, for example, that what might seem to the Senator an unpardonable liberty in the case of Mr. FOWLER may be natural and acceptable when uttered by THE SUN?

If our Illinois correspondent does not know these things he ought to inform himself concerning them before he volunteers another effort like the foregoing. He ought also to buy a dictionary and brush up his grammar. The Hon. JIM HAM is sensitive about niceties of literary form.

A Matter of White Paper.

It is encouraging to read in the *Congressional Record* of June 10 that Senator SMITH of Arizona objected to a request for "leave to print" on the ground that the Government Printing Office did not have white paper enough "to print anything."

It is discouraging to see in the *Official Bulletin* of the same day more than five full pages of matter every word of which had already been printed in the *Congressional Record*. That is, matter which no human being will ever read, enough to fill one whole page of this paper, is printed one day in one Government publication, another day in another, both by the Federal printing shop which has not enough white paper to "print anything."

Would it be unkind to suggest that such fool extravagance is an evil serious enough to be throttled?

Black Bass.

To-day is the opening of the black bass season, thanks to a thoughtful Legislature which has prescribed that when the opening day falls on Sunday it shall be deemed to commence on the Saturday preceding such Sunday. The bronze backer has come to be regarded preeminently as the American game fish. Whether the angler seeks the game by still fishing, trolling, plug fishing, bait casting or fly fishing, he has a worthy foe to deal with.

The black bass literally had to fight its way to popularity. For thirty years ago, in some sections, anglers using dough, worms and other primitive lures said harsh and unkind things; but the various ways in which the fish is now sought by fishermen in these days of scientific angling results in nothing but praise.

The black bass will take all manner of lures, worms, insects, hellgrammites, crawfish, minnows, frogs, pork rind, spoons, artificial flies and lures that resemble nothing that swims in air or water. It is undoubtedly the combative nature of the bass that makes it take the strange "plugs" that tantalize it till in fury it strikes.

This brings up the subject of taking bass off their nests at a time before the spawning period is over or the young black bass can take care of themselves. In the bass family, as the popular jingle has it, nobody works but father; he's on guard all day, fins in constant motion, keeping the foes away. While protecting the nest father bass resents any intrusion and will seize almost anything dropped on the homestead. The housekeeper of the family will even take an unbaited hook.

In waters where the fish have not ended their spawning, and the State Fish Culturist says that nesting bass ought to be protected to June 30, it would aid food conservation not to take such bass. The Conservation Commission, its bill for protection for the bass to July 1 having been defeated at the last Legislature, urges anglers to refrain from fishing over the spawning beds.

Incidentally the State and city are liberal with the fresh water angler. Having closed the Croton watershed streams last year as a war measure, they now permit angling from the shore in special cases. Also the State expects to raise thousands of black bass this year, among them the large mouths, not heretofore propagated, in certain abandoned sections of the old Erie Canal. This will make the lot of the bass fisherman happier.

A Little Job for the Police and the Courts.

There is no reason on earth why the police should not arrest and the courts should not punish severely the venders of newspapers who regularly and persistently invade the residential sections of the city and seek to sell their wares by raucous, misleading cries intended to arouse enthusiasm or alarm in those unfortunate enough to hear them.

In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred these frauds misrepresent the newspapers they peddle. Their "special extras" are regular editions; the "late news" is the news that has been printed in the regular routine. They are in effect petty larceners who obtain money under false pretences.

The harm they do in upsetting the nervous systems of anxious mothers and fathers of soldiers and sailors is incalculable, and were this a negligible fact the racket they raise constitutes a criminal invasion of the right of every citizen to extract what comfort may be got from the modified uproar that passes for quiet in this interesting town.

These impostors are not the respectable newsdealers and newsboys who serve to the population of New York its diurnal quota of reading matter. They are intruders in an honorable and essential calling, bearing the same relation to the regular dealers that the promoters of get rich quick swindles do to salesmen of Liberty bonds.

A persistent hunt for these rascals by the police and a consistently rigorous treatment of them by the courts would contribute greatly to the peace of the community.

A Job for Mr. McAdoo and Mr. Daniels.

We hope that Mr. McADOO, in his capacity of Director-General of the Railroads, and Secretary DANIELS, as the head of the Navy Department, will have time to read and digest the letter headed "Submitted to Mr. McADOO and Mr. DANIELS," which we print in another column on this page to-day, and in which a righteously indignant sailor in the navy describes with great moderation and clarity the suffering Red Tape and unpreparedness imposed on him and a number of his comrades when they endeavored to take advantage of arrangements supposed to have been made for their transportation.

Nobody who does read this interesting and straightforward account of the amazing adventures of these bluejackets will need to have its moral pointed out.

The situation in which they found themselves was indefensible and beyond understanding to any person who is unacquainted with the stupidity, the arrogance and the heartlessness of Red Tape, which intervened in their case to thwart the ambition of Director-General McADOO as an official of the Government, of WILLIAM GIBBS McADOO as an individual, of Secretary DANIELS as an official and of JOSEPHUS DANIELS as an individual, to make things comfortable for our defenders. We suspect the case is typical rather than exceptional; and we fear many other men have been similarly outraged by Red Tape.

It is the duty of the Government to inquire into a situation that results in such abuses and to correct it at once. The men for whom special rates are established have a special call on the authorities and deserve the most considerate treatment. If this cannot be given to them they certainly ought to have a square deal and not be driven to profanity and strong drink by the officious ministrations of Red Tape.

The failure of Mr. UNDERWOOD's resolution to limit debate in the Senate is by no means an unmixed evil. We are frequently annoyed by the garrulity of Senators who lack terminal facilities, but prolonged discussion of proposed legislation has more often done good than harm. It frequently happens in the Senate that members not on the committees to which bills are referred are compelled by their long winded colleagues to read measures before voting for or against them, and thus faults are exposed that would otherwise go unnoticed. There is a good deal of unnecessary talk in the Senate, but all that comes from it is not bad.

The President has induced HENRY FORD to run for the Senate in Michigan. —*News from Washington.*

Is this the same President who caused it to be announced after the Wisconsin election that he would not interfere in future contests for the United States Senate?

"The war and the upheavals which have followed in its wake have disorganized all the economic factors that ordinarily determine prices," says Lord RHONDDA. Mr. HOOVER is about to set thousands of agents at work to attend to this evil, and if they effect only a partial cure the least deserving of them will be entitled to an obituary which, as INGERSOLL used to say, "will make the angels green with envy."

Compulsory work urged by President WILSON.—*Newspaper headline.*

Old Hi Costalivin urges it too.

Nobody will be sorry if the naval hospital ship Comfort has to sail with a navy crew and thus is deprived of an opportunity to prove once more that the Germans do not respect the law or humanity.

What is told to the marines is not a circumstance to what is told of the Marines.

The professional politicians are not in a happy mood over the fine politics played by the President in a State where the Democrats could not win this fall.—*Comment on Mr. WILSON's activity in Mr. FORD's behalf.*

Obviously politics was not adjourned sine die.

SUBMITTED TO MR. McADOO AND MR. DANIELS.

A Tale of Furloughed Bluejackets at the Railway Ticket Office.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Of course you are acquainted with the new act of Director McAdoo concerning the new rates for passage on the railways of the nation on and after June 10.

Many of us sailors who live in the West were greatly pleased to read in the different newspapers, in both the news and editorial columns, that after that date we should get the benefit of the new rates by showing our furlough papers to the ticket agent. The result of this was naturally a rush for long overdue furloughs, and some were lucky enough to get them.

On June 11 I got my papers for a fourteen day furlough, giving me the right to go to a certain town in the middle western part of the country. Fourteen days is not a long time for such a trip, but as I expected "cut rates" I was a happy man; who wouldn't be? As I entered the Pennsylvania Railroad station I fell in with six other sailors, all bound for the West on limited furloughs; one to west Texas, one to Kansas, one to Panhandle Oklahoma, one to Arkansas and the other two to New Mexico. We were a light hearted bunch (for a few minutes).

We presented our papers to the agent, who looked bored and lifelessly told us that we did not have the right papers. An argument started, for we thought he was trying to ride us, and in the end of his speech he told us that unless we could show him the adopted form, signed by Mr. McAdoo, we would pay not 2½ cents a mile, but straight three cents, plus war tax, and if we took a Pullman the whole would be increased 25 per cent., plus the cost of a berth!

Our train was nearly due and we knew that we would have to do something quickly as none of us had the money to pay for our "cut rates." We went to the navy yard and got a typed statement, signed by the commandant, and then back to the station, but that would not be accepted. We separated and went to telephones and called up 280 Broadway, the navy yard paymaster, who, we thought, would know something about it.

The report from 280 Broadway was most promising, so we went in force to that place, only to find out from a smiling "chief" that we "were out of luck," as no blank forms had been received from Washington and neither had instructions concerning the same been received.

When again at the station we met a bunch of soldiers with their proper slips, and from them we learned that there was a limited supply at Fort Jay. So down to the Battery we went, and at the guard office we were informed that we were sailors and not soldiers. That was the limit and there was nearly a riot.

After going back to the Pennsylvania station we "bunched up" to decide what to do. We had wasted all day, which was cutting our furloughs short. Most of the boys said they would be damned if they would pay such a price, especially when they did not have it, and after damning everything under the sun they went off to get drunk, saying they would spend their leave in "raising hell."

Two of us spent the night at the station and are now waiting for a train to St. Louis, where we will land nearly broke, and there I will telegraph home for money, telling dad to sell the farm and send me the money, or else will let the conductor throw me off the train.

I wanted you to know how our red tape is progressing. And now, as the song of "Cleopatra" reads, "Now what do you think of that?"

A RUMPLED SALT.

NEW YORK, June 13.

A Casualty.

Sandusky Lynch—there's a name I find in the "casualties"
Fresh from the shell rent fields of France.
What a sound it has! Kentucky the home State named,
With a Western dash and tang to it.
Half Yankee pioneer, half Irish—all American!
How he proudly bared his breast to the iron hail!
How he looked at the foe, then went clear through.
No stop for him short of Honor, and that no stop,
Out he went, and over he went, over and up—
Up where the Starry Flag shines in the zenith:
Beyond, beyond, borne by the love of millions,
To the pure White Throne where Justice reigns,
Where the Father folds His new found martyr children.
Sandusky Lynch—what a name it is!
What a name to write beside our ever living dead,
Montgomery, Warren, Lincoln, Kearny, Shaw,
And "Buck" O'Neill, who signed the roll at Caney.
Sandusky Lynch, humble, yet worthy here,
Sandusky Lynch, hail and farewell!

June 12, 1918. JOHN JESSOP ROBERTS.

THE WINNING OF THE WAR.

A Suggestion of Japanese Entry Without Menace to Russian Integrity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The recent repeated references in THE SUN to the subject of the more active participation of Japan in the war on the side of the Allies recalls the fact that in THE SUN of August 29, 1917, there was published a brief article the gist of which was that the great war would be settled by strategy rather than tactics, and that the real strategic point in the titanic struggle in progress was Constantinople.

In that article it was submitted that 500,000 Japanese veterans could be landed at Alexandria without great delay or danger, and thence to the most favorable point on the coast of Asia Minor, to cooperate with the Allied Expeditionary Forces, and that they could take Constantinople within six months and end the war. It was also suggested that it would pay the United States to finance this transaction.

In furtherance of this idea a letter was written to a prominent member of Parliament, enclosing this article. He promptly replied that the subject was one of such great interest that he had forwarded the letter to the British Foreign Office for their consideration.

In the present chaotic condition of Russia the entrance of Japan into Russian territory from Vladivostok would be ill advised. It would offer to the pan-Germanic leaders an opportunity they would not neglect to turn the thought of ignorant Russians to the fear of Asiatic invasion, and in this way win them over to the active support of the Central Powers.

On the other hand the approach from Asia Minor and the occupancy of Constantinople, with an assurance from the Allied Powers that it was for the relief of Russia in the aim of an earlier peace, could not possibly be interpreted as an Asiatic threat against the integrity of Russia. The pan-Germanic idea in the war, so ruthlessly precipitated and so cruelly maintained, was the commercial and later the military conquest of Asia Minor, which would enable them to attack England in India. Long before the war the Bagdad railway and other activities to the south of Constantinople pointed clearly to this.

The fall of Constantinople would be the death blow to this pan-Germanic dream of Oriental exploitation, and most to be desired. It would again bring Russia into the war and relieve the tremendous pressure which lack of statesmanship has permitted to be brought against the heroic defenders of the western front. JOHN A. WYETH.

NEW YORK, June 14.

We invite attention to Dr. Wyeth's remarks, particularly in connection with the picture of present conditions in Asia Minor and the Transcaucasus presented in the letter, printed in THE SUN of Wednesday, from a close observer who signed himself "A Student of Near Eastern Affairs." The question seems well worth considering whether anything could do more to help the Allied cause in France than the reestablishment of an eastern front requiring German presence there in great force and effected without depletion of General Foch's armies or any division of troops available for their reenforcement.

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS.

An Opportunity for Americans to Do a Necessary War Work.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There is an excellent chance offered to men of Greater New York who come up to requirements and are patriotically inclined to assist in the saving of life and the prevention of property loss by fire. The opportunity is offered to them by Fire Commissioner Drennan. The Commissioner has issued a general order, directed to the captains of all companies in Greater New York, to enroll volunteers in their districts for fire duty. The idea is to build up a volunteer force of firemen—men who give their services gratis but are willing to obey all the rules and regulations of the department, to respond to alarms and do all the regular services of paid members of the department to relieve the regular members, who just at present are required to remain on long watches because of the large number of firemen who have been taken in the draft.

In order to organize the force of volunteer firemen and make it a real fire fighting force the Commissioner has appointed a Special Deputy Fire Commissioner. To the latter each captain of a fire company will submit his list of names of men who have volunteered their services and the Special Commissioner will select the men who in his opinion are suitable for the work required.

The principal requirement, of course, is that the volunteer be an American citizen, for only men who are loyal to the core can be depended upon to perform their duties in the required manner.

But here is a real chance for men who have the necessary amount of time at their disposal to do something for the civic good. Here in New York the danger from fire is ever great and the fighting force cannot be diminished even by war. In fact, the war is all the more reason why greater care must be taken to prevent a serious fire. But the city cannot be adequately protected if the force is depleted in any way. F. D.

NEW YORK, June 14.

TRADE BRIEFS.

The American Consul-General in Singapore has sent to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 734 Custom House, New York, a list of dealers in motor vehicles in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States. This list can be obtained by referring to File No. 8389.

Agencies for the sale of American hardware, belting, enameled ware, earthenware, foodstuffs, linseed oil and galvanized iron are wanted in Porto Rico.

Greece will have a heavy crop of currents this year, it is reported. There are 40,000 tons of currents left over from previous crops, and with the market thus glutted prices will be low.

When the Cuban Government has completed the road improvements which are now being planned, there will be a good market for automobiles in the city of Cienfuegos. The authorities have appropriated $250,000 for repair work and some improvements have already been made. Gasolene now retails in that district for 65 cents a gallon.

New uses for waste materials are being constantly discovered in England. Numerous municipalities have appointed official collectors of "refuse." The National Salvage Council has issued a pamphlet in which suggestions are made on the collection and utilization of waste products. Old paper, bone materials, fish waste, organic refuse, tin cans, scrap metal and ashes can all be made to yield some needed product.

Coal burning locomotives, rolling stock, rails and fish plates for twenty-five miles of railway are wanted in Chile. The track gauge is to be one meter.

NAMING THE SHIPS.

A Simple System to Identify Each Class of Vessels.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In finding names for the new cargo ships now being built in the United States, you inform us, the authorities are having some trouble, owing to the great number that are to be turned out. It seems to me that as arbitrary combinations of letters may be used without serious offence, the adoption of this simple system would go far to solve the difficulty and confer on the vessels characteristic names:

Let concrete vessels bear names beginning with the syllable "con," as "Connector," "Conveyor," &c.

Let fabricated vessels bear names beginning with the syllable "fab," as "Fabulous," "Fabats."

Let composite vessels bear names ending with "com," such as "Abcom," "Brascom." The use of "com" as the final syllable would prevent confusion with the "con" class, or vessels built of concrete.

Let all steel ships have names introducing the word steel, as "Steelprow," "Steelway."

Let all wooden ships bear names introducing the word wood, as "Baywood," "Longwood," "Woodman."

Let ships built in lake yards be double named, the first name to be "lake," the second designating the construction of the vessel, as Lake Constance, Lake Fabilla, Lake Michicom, Lake Greenwood, Lake Steelfall.

Let all vessels built on the Gulf bear similar double names.

Such combinations could easily be made without violating good taste, duplications, confusion or disappointing the desire for harmonious names for ships, and these names would at once identify the class of each ship. OLD SALT.

MARINERS HARBOR, S. I., June 14.

Let the American Historians Be Better Advertised.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In naming the new vessels the Shipping Board ought to give American historians a place in the sun. I have skimmed through Lloyd's Register and I find no ships named after William H. Prescott, Richard Hildreth, John Fiske, Francis Parkman, Justin Winsor, John Bach McMaster or James Ford Rhodes. Indeed, I cannot find a ship named after the author of "The New Freedom."

From the list of our naval historians the Shipping Board could find many worthy names, such as A. T. Mahan, E. S. Maclay, John D. Long, John R. Spears and F. M. Bennett.

America has had a fine lot of historians. In this branch of literature she shines as brightly as any nation. The historians have been largely responsible for the American spirit. Make their names familiar to the young men.

ANGUS MCSWONG.

NEW YORK, June 14.

MATTERS JAPANESE.

The Nations Are Coming to an Understanding of Each Other.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It may not be amiss to bring to your readers' attention some recent happily occurring matters relative to the Japanese, chief among these being the liberal contribution of approximately $30,000 by the Japanese in New York and vicinity to the latest Red Cross fund. Japanese banking and business houses gave the largest single amounts; four of them $2,500 each, two $1,500 and ten $1,000. The contributors in all numbered about 300.

Meanwhile, the members of the Japanese Women's American Red Cross Auxiliary 293 of New York city are earnestly continuing their bi-weekly meetings, spacious headquarters for their work being now provided by the Mitsui Company at 25 Madison avenue. Their average output of surgical dressings is 6,000 each month, a material assistance to the general Red Cross aggregate.

This enterprising Japanese auxiliary furnished a quota of thirty-five of its members for the Red Cross Fund parade. The following account of their share in the parade is taken from a letter written by one of the young girl members:

"We got tired waiting on hot streets for the start; but as for marching, from Seventy-sixth to Seventeenth street, it was rather fun, and we did not feel tired at all.

"As we marched on, crowds on both sides of Fifth avenue whispered, 'Here come Japanese!' then they applauded, shouted and cheered. We heard constantly this word, 'Banzai!'

"I think this encouraged us a great deal. American people and Japanese seem to understand each other more, day by day. I am so happy.

"Japan and America are indeed drawing nearer, nowadays, in understanding; fortunately so." EDITH A. SAWYER.

SEBAGO LAKE, Me., June 12.

In Behalf of Kansas City.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Not long ago you printed a piece about the editorial articles by George Creel in the Kansas City *Independent*. He doesn't write for that paper any more, but what you said sort of hipped some of the old K. C. boys now living here. It might give the notion that the paper is a gooseberry now instead of the real pippin it is. I enclose a few editorial articles from my copy of June 8 to show that Creel didn't put the paper in bad when he left it. Here they are:

The feeling of noblesse oblige is no longer restricted to the favored few.

Maurice Barrymore, Ethel's father, was better looking than his two sons, Lionel and John, put together.

Only the idle rich, a class now obsolete, could afford two phones.

Have you seen Mrs. George [I delete] in her little gingham dress?

It is no good trying to get rid of an aching tooth or back by trying to forget it.

The other night I sat at a table close by a party which included the wife of an army officer.

At the Soldiers' and Sailors' Community Rooms you have no idea what intelligent young men may fall to your lot; men who know the use of forks and spoons.

Through Mr. George Creel the Kansas City public is permitted to witness the great official war pictures.

Sarcasm has a serpent's tooth.

Hot weather or no heat, it is difficult to keep from dancing when you hear the music of that Chicago jazz band.

You will see from the above that the departure of Mr. Creel took from the *Independent* neither wit, philosophy, pep nor wisdom. K. C.

NEW YORK, June 14.

A Journalistic Oversight Up State.

Clocksville correspondence Oneida Post.

We forgot to mention the patriotic and impressive invocation given by our pastor at the beginning of the Memorial Day services.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF THE CITIZEN IN TIME OF WAR.

What May the Individual Say and What May He Not Say of the American in High Office?

What political rights remain to the individual citizen during the period of actual war?

The question is being presented forcefully to all of the local magistrates and to all of the people of New York with increasing frequency. A review of the police court records of a month will reveal an astonishing number of cases that have come before the judges of first instance in which the technical charge is disorderly conduct and the specific charge the utterance of a personal opinion.

With a political campaign staring the public fully in the face, it becomes extremely pertinent to inquire what things may be said by citizens without running afoul of the law. In New York city the situation is much more complex than it is in many parts of the country by reason of the fact that a minority of the people only is classed by the official census bureau as being "American."

To many of these the offence of lese majesty is better known than the offence of seditious utterance, and there is evidently a sorry understanding among the majority as to the distinction. This lack of understanding, in many cases, has extended to the magistrates themselves, who have, at times, missed the underlying principle of the American law and views by a wide margin.

The basic distinction between disloyal utterance in America and offence against the sovereign in autocratic countries is that the offence in this land must be against the whole people, and not against one individual. It is the Government of the United States that our laws seek to protect, and not any particular official who may, for the time, be charged with the handling of any particular part of that Government.

While good manners and good taste suggest that all citizens should entertain a decent respect for the Chief Executive of the nation during his official incumbency, there is no earthly obligation which requires any man to be the personal supporter of Mr. Wilson in order that he may be a loyal supporter of the Government of the United States. A proper respect for the lawful, official actions of President Wilson does not take with it any requirement that any citizen shall forego his personal opinion regarding the personal political opinions of Mr. Wilson the President.

It is essential that the individual shall obey such laws and orders as are promulgated by the Presidential authority in the regular and proper exercising of that authority.

On the other hand the individual has a regularly constituted lawful manner of expressing his opinion as to the ultimate wisdom of such orders and of the legality of the authority that is exercised.

One has but to look backward for a few short months to understand the exact status of the President, who is here used as an example only and not specified with the purpose of personal or individual criticism. What applies to the President applies with equal force, no more and no less, to every other elected officer in the land.

Mr. Wilson was elected President by a popular vote of 9,129,269, out of a total vote of 18,538,248. It is thus quite evident that about one-half of his fellow citizens did not agree with the political views upon which he made his race for the high office. Granting the defeated one-half has the right to its views, and assuming that the individuals expressed at the election their honest individual views as to the fitness of Mr. Wilson, to require personal loyalty to Mr. Wilson as a test of loyalty to the Government would demand that the respectable number of 9,408,977 Americans who voted the Republican, Socialist, Prohibition and Socialist Labor tickets either recant their political objections to the candidate or muzzle themselves regarding the issues upon which the previous campaign was fought.

This army of one-half of the total vote of the country is required to do no such thing. It may think what it pleases of the personal political views of the Chief Executive as freely as it did three years ago. The only requirement is that nothing shall be said or done which interferes with the policy of the Government in the war, which, by the way, is not the sole property of the Executive, but rests alike upon the Congress of the United States.

The man who says "To hell with the United States" is not in the same class with the man who insists that Colonel Roosevelt, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Root or Senator James Hamilton Lewis would make a better President than the present occupant of the White House.

One is directly attacking the entire Government; the other is exercising a proper and constitutional right.

The highest type of patriot in the country is the man who does not agree with the President's party politics and yet makes a fine distinction between such politics and a national policy for the common preservation, and then wholeheartedly follows a leadership he does not entirely approve to get a result with which there can be no possible issue.

Nor is it lese majesty to oppose the doctrine of secret treaties, to insist upon efficient Cabinet officers, to question the fitness of any existing Cabinet officer in getting a common, patriotic result, to demand the removal of the unfit and the conservation of the national resources through officials who are mentally, temperentally and professionally qualified to handle the stupendous sums and issues that the war has forced upon the people.

One does not have to agree that Mr. George Creel is the embodiment of wisdom in order to salute the flag without blushing. Indeed, one may be convinced that the war, the country and the world at large would profit by the retirement of Mr. Creel without making a dent in a perfect loyalty. Nor does the individual have to subscribe to the infallibility of Secretary Baker before he may go to bed with a prayer for the success of our arms and fleet. As a matter of fact, a man might with propriety pray in the same hour for the substitution of General Leonard Wood for Mr. Baker and for glorious victory.

There isn't a country now in the war which has not changed some of its directing officials during hostilities at the demand of critics who were loyal and earnest. Britain has overturned civil and military officials at will. France has done both. So have Italy and Turkey, while Germany has thrown out her very highest civil and military officials without question when public criticism followed their acts. And Austria has followed the lead of her neighbor.

In the United States alone is there to be found any element that insists that personal loyalty to a political leader is essential to loyalty to the nation. And those insistent persons, it may well be remarked, are generally doorkeepers in the tents of those who now hold public office, and therefore disqualified from passing any such judgment.

A proper understanding of the relationship of the citizen to his Government, and of the relationship of the citizen to the officials who serve the Government, is the prime essential of the period that marks the opening of a general political campaign.

The most casual reader of the daily news, and especially the news of the police grist, cannot fail to be impressed with the necessity for full discussion and complete understanding of this issue. There must be no introduction of the doctrine of lese majesty in this country, any more than there can be toleration of the slightest opposition to the will of the land expressed by constituted authorities, at a time when the safety of every home depends upon faithful service.

NEW YORK, June 14.

"CARS FOR WOMEN ONLY."

An Unidentified Hero in "The Sun's" Army of Correspondents.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A great deal has happened in the world since Mr. McAdoo made his first bid for popularity by adopting the suggestion in THE SUN for "cars for women only" in his newly opened Hudson River tubes.

A three line communication in THE SUN started this project on its way round the world.

I remember it well, as it was signed with initials similar to my own. Mr. Bassett, one of the members of the newly appointed Public Service Commission, was taken up to the Brooklyn Bridge by a city official to gaze upon the wonders of the bridge and at the hour of the day when they were at their height.

As a result he asked for suggestions from the public for improving conditions at this place while, at the same time, praising the evolution of the trained and disciplined hosts deploying, some of them through the windows of the cars, on their way to their homes in Brooklyn.

The suggestion that followed in THE SUN was to the effect that the commissioner establish a plan for cars for women only, and then let the trained and disciplined army of educated athletes herd by itself.

JOHN P. DAVIN, M. D.

NEW YORK, June 14.

The Emblem of the Immortal.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I saw in THE SUN a letter headed "The Death Star in the Service Flag," in which many suggestions were made.

I suggest that the emblem of death should be a golden or yellow circle or wreath, large enough to be placed upon the star. What more appropriate insignia than to surround the emblem of service with a golden wreath of glory, symbolic of a hero's death. They could be easily and cheaply made and attached. L. H. BROOME.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., June 14.

Air Plants.

From the Wide World.

In some parts of Mexico "air plants" abound. These curious growths are never attached to the soil in any way, but rely for their moisture on the atmosphere. One kind, known as "Spaniard's Beard" (Tillandsia usneoides), attaches itself to telephone wires. Very often the growth becomes a positive nuisance, and it is necessary to send men to clear it away. The "Spaniard's Beard" has no proper leaves, and in appearance is simply a mass of green gray threads.

THE SPANISH PRESS.

An Association of Importance to the Western World Formed Here.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The recent formation in New York of the Asociación de la Prensa (Spanish Press Association) is especially significant to that large group of North Americans who are interested either in the Spanish language or in inter-American relations.

The Asociación de la Prensa is the result of several different factors, the presence in New York of some twenty-four publications edited in Spanish (daily, weekly and monthly) is the first; that has been felt for a closer professional union among Hispano-American journalists; the desire on the part of Spanish and Hispano-American newspaper men to draw more closely together the bonds of friendship between Latin and Anglo-Saxon America; the desire on the part of Latin literary men to put themselves in touch with that interest in Spanish letters which is being increasingly manifested in the United States and particularly in New York; and finally, to enable the publications of Latin America and Spain to have in New York a representative body who could perform such services as circumstances may demand. The Asociación de la Prensa does not, however, limit its membership solely to Latin Americans or Spaniards. It also admits to membership Americans who speak Spanish or Portuguese.

The Asociación de la Prensa has passed through its formative period, has elected its officers and committees and had its first general meeting at the New York Advertising Club on May 31, guest of the evening, M. Alberto Gilardoni of Buenos Ayres, president of the Argentine Graphic Arts Association, spoke on the development of the press in the Argentine, illustrating his talk with a wealth of data on the Argentine periodical press, the character of various publications and their circulation, history and editorial policy. Other speakers, well known Latin American newspaper men, such as Dr. José Camilo Pareda, Dr. Lara Pardo, took part in a meeting of unusual value and interest.

The officers of the association are Dr. Luis Lara Pardo, president; Dr. Juan F. Urquidi of the *Equitativo Postal*, vice-president; C. C. Martin, treasurer; Alberto Angdor of *Tel Arte Gráfico*, secretary. Other members of the board of directors are Mr. M. L. Guardiola of *El Gráfico* and Mr. J. L. Rodríguez of *América Futura*. The address of the association is 32 Rector street, New York. C. C. MARTIN.

NEW YORK, June 14.