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Huge Investment Capital Which Avoids Surtaxed Liberty Bonds.

Secretary McADOO's plan of limited exemption of Government bonds from income surtaxes will help to rescue future Liberty loans from failure. But, started in the right direction, it can and should go further. It is only a question of time until the Treasury and Congress will be compelled to send it a longer way. They can do this now to the full success of such loans as the Government must put out. They can do it and save money for the Government. They can save more in the way of permanent interest than they will lose in temporary taxes.

In his letter to Chairman KITCHIN Mr. McADOO stated the question flatly enough. He said that as the high Kitchin surtaxes would drive large investments out of the Liberty loan bond market, the Government's choice now lies between raising the interest paid by the bond or lowering the surtax imposed on the bond. But he might well have set forth the obvious conclusion growing out of his premise that raising the interest for the full term of the bond, while in the long run it would cost the Government perhaps billions more to fight the war, nevertheless might still bar prodigious investment capital out of the Government bond market.

The Government might raise the interest rate to 5 per cent., to 6 per cent., but if a wild man from Borneo in the Ways and Means Committee of the House should thresh out surtaxes to take away from the bondholder that additional interest and something more besides, such a 5 per cent. or 6 per cent. bond wouldn't look any better to him than a bond paying 4½ per cent. or 4¼ per cent. with a reasonable amount of the interest left to him by the national tax gatherers.

The 3½ per cent. bond was good enough to satisfy investors. The proof of it is that, exempt from all taxes, it commands a higher price to-day than the other war bonds. Just as long as the surtaxes rise and rise it will appeal to investors when they will not touch bonds of higher interest, paying excessive surtaxes.

Secretary McADOO need not yet have issued a bond higher than 4 per cent. If there had been any guarantee that 4 per cent., or something near 4 per cent., would be left to the bondholder. As a matter of fact, with a Kitchin at the head of the Ways and Means Committee making surtaxes to fit his economic hallucinations, there could be no guarantee, there could be no reason to suppose, that two-thirds, or one-half, or even one-quarter of the interest of the present 4¼ per cent. bonds will be left to large investors after not the owner of the bonds, but the tax gatherer, in effect, has clipped their coupons.

If, as Secretary McADOO warns Mr. KITCHIN, the Government raises the interest rate, that increased interest will go for years and years into the pockets of the small investors who do not have to pay the surtaxes. But as hundreds of millions of capital which would be subject to the high surtaxes will still stay away from the bonds just the same, the Government simply will be out of pocket the difference in interest paid to those who would have bought the bonds anyhow at a lower rate of interest.

In this country there are hundreds of millions, there are billions of capital which will not, which, because of the statutes, because of the vigilant scrutiny of the courts, because of the moral and legal obligations of the trustees and managers, cannot be invested on patriotic impulse. JOHN BROWN, the man of salary, acting for himself, can buy Government bonds to the limit of his capacity whether he gets 5 per cent. or 1 per cent. out of them. So can PLUTO CRŒSUS, acting for himself. But the trustee has no option in the matter. The trustee must handle the funds entrusted to him under the strictest regulations and the deepest responsibility so as to produce a reasonable income for the interests or the individuals of which he is trustee.

In this country trusteeship embraces the widest fields. Banks are trustees. Insurance companies are trustees. All manner of religious, charitable and educational funds are in trust. It is such money, along with others, that must go into the war loans if the industrial, commercial and financial structure of the nation is not to be disrupted as if by an earthquake. You cannot, as we have said on another occasion, throw business blocks, as such, and factories, as such, and bridges and farms, as such, into the war or into bonds. But the millions and millions of dollars which every day come out of the nation's industries in wages and other earnings as the share of production of those engaged in them, you can put into bonds and into the war. These are the great sums, the constant sums, which, flowing every day into savings institutions, into insurance organizations, and the like, make a ceaseless bidding and purchasing power in the Liberty loan bond market—if Mr. KITCHIN will let them.

There isn't an investor, big or little, who doesn't know this. There isn't a bank clerk, an insurance bookkeeper, or a real estate salesman, who doesn't know it. Everybody knows it but KITCHIN. Nevertheless, it may be that when he beholds the Secretary of the Treasury alarmed for what must happen to Liberty loans when the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee drives away from Government bonds those who should be subscribing for them and would be if they could, perhaps even his mind will not prove to be utterly and forever impenetrable.

It may be that, with all his violent prejudices against saved wealth, wherever it may be, with his sectional jealousies and hatreds, KITCHIN himself may yet comprehend that what the Government wants to come from a revenue bill, what the nation must have under penalty of a military breakdown, is revenue; not lambasting of wealth, strangling of industry, punishing of communities—economic havoc.

"Clear and Unambiguous."

Time flies fast in war, and there may be some who wonder, when they read this remarkable sentence from the German Emperor's speech to the Krupp workers, whether their memories have not played them false:

"In December, 1916, I presented the enemy public with a clear and unambiguous offer of peace in the name of the German Empire and my allies. Jeers, mockery and contempt were the answer."

What really happened in December, 1916, was that on the 12th of that month the Central Powers, undoubtedly for the purpose of soothing the Socialist pacifists of Germany and the murmuring people of Austria-Hungary, sent notes to Spain, Switzerland, the United States and other neutral Governments, and also to the Vatican, proposing "to enter forthwith into peace negotiations." Nothing more concrete was offered than an invitation to discuss "an appropriate basis for the establishment of a lasting peace."

This bait, set out so soon after BETHMANN-HOLLWEG had declared that if the Allies "persisted in shutting their eyes to the war map" Germany would fight on to a "final victory," did not catch any of the Entente Allies. Manifestly it was Germany's intention to make peace, if peace could be made, on the basis of the war map; and Germany was sprawled over Belgium, France and Russia. The trap was too obvious. In fact, it is unlikely that Germany expected any reply to the "clear and unambiguous offer of peace," as WILHELM now calls it, except defiance. That in itself would be welcome, for it would silence for a while the Socialists and the Hungarians, who were crying for peace. If the Entente Allies had taken the bait Germany's next move would have been to demand to know their terms, and she would have expected the terms that usually come from a land still occupied by an unbeaten invader.

As it happened, the terms of the Allies were made known to Germany. They were embodied in the historic sentence of LLOYD GEORGE: "Complete restitution, full reparation and effectual guarantees." The Allies have never receded from this laconic summary of the only possible basis for peace. Even when the President of the then technically neutral United States requested, in that same December of 1916, the belligerent nations to avow "the precise objects which would, if attained, satisfy them and their people that the war had been fought out," and added his impression that "the objects which the statesmen of the belligerents on both sides have in mind in this war are virtually the same, as stated in general terms to their own people and to the world"—even then there was no result. The Germans of course refused to make known their objects; the Allies declined to assume the posture of the defeated.

That, briefly, is the history of the Kaiser's "clear and unambiguous offer of peace." That he lies about it is the expected and unimportant. After nearly two years the American mind has the pleasure of fixing itself on other matters; the clear and unambiguous purpose of FOCH, the clear and unambiguous advance of PERSHING'S first army.

Our West African Ally.

"A credit of $5,000,000," says a despatch from Washington, "was established to-day by the Treasury for the Republic of Liberia, which has declared war against Germany. This adds a ninth nation to the list of Allies borrowing from the United States."

No doubt there are good reasons for this loan, but it would be interesting to know what they are.

Liberia is an English speaking negro republic on the west coast of Africa five degrees north of the equator, and a little smaller than the State of New York. In the first half of the nineteenth century, under the auspices of the American Colonization Society, it was colonized by free negroes from the United States, who set up a government which was recognized by the principal European Powers in 1840, but on account of the pro-slavery influences prevailing here did not obtain recognition by this country until ABRAHAM LINCOLN became President. In 1909 President ROOSEVELT sent a commission to Liberia to investigate the condition of the country, and since then its finances have been supervised by officers of the United States.

It is difficult to perceive how such a country as Liberia can possess any more potency as a war power than the republic of San Marino in Italy or Andorra in Spain. It has neither soldiers nor ships. The dense forests of Liberia, however, produce rubber of good quality, which would seem to be the only product of the country having any distinctive war value; and it may be that the purpose of the Administration in making this loan of $5,000,000 is to procure an increased quantity of Liberian rubber for military uses.

There is little doubt that Liberia is a country in which $5,000,000 may be expended with advantage—to the Liberians—if one happens to have that amount of money to spare.

In the Words of Monte Cristo, "Three—and the Last!"

The defeat of Senator HARDWICK in the Georgia primary ends the series of political contests in which the President of the United States had expressed a personal interest. It was HARDWICK to whom the President referred, in a letter to CLARK HOWELL, as "a constant and active opponent of my administration." Three candidates for Democratic nominations for Senatorships who were opposed by Mr. WILSON have been beaten this waning summer: VARDAMAN of Mississippi, BLEASE of South Carolina, and HARDWICK of Georgia. All three contests occurred in States where a Democratic nominee is as good as elected; so these contests for nominations have been practically elections.

In its jubilation over the defeat of three men who not only do not represent but have opposed American traditions and spirit the public will not begrudge the President whatever satisfaction he may take in the overthrow of "opponents of his administration." It may believe, as THE SUN does, that the candidates were beaten because of the people's disgust at their conduct toward America rather than toward an administration. The issue was not so much party politics as national honor.

If VARDAMAN, BLEASE and HARDWICK—or any one of them—had been victorious the onus would have rested upon the State and not upon Mr. WILSON. The President's "daring venture," as the *World* termed it in the Vardaman case, called for courage, but our neighbor was wrong if it believed that Mr. WILSON hazarded his "prestige as a world statesman."

A hundred years from now nobody will remember that the President's opposition to political candidates in 1918 occurred after his announcement that politics was adjourned. It will even be forgotten that close upon the end of his primary victories—which included the defeat of Representative SLAYDEN of Texas as well as the Senators we have named, and had no offsets except the election of HUDDLESTON of Alabama and the failure of Temporary Democrat FORD—the President turned virtuously upon the partisan HAYS, ready to rebuke any intrusion of politics into national affairs. All this will be forgotten.

The Brewer Among the Ruins.

The speed with which one brewery called upon the Tenement House Department for advice as to the best manner of turning the fifty-seven saloons controlled by it into dwelling places is an indication of the manner in which the beer makers keep up with the times. Theirs has been a life of manœuvre for several years. They knew, long before it dawned upon the general public, that Rum was on its last legs. Nearly ten years ago their allies, the bar fixture manufacturers, began to turn their hands to billiard tables and other innocent bits of furniture. A little later the breweries themselves set their chemists at the job of discovering temperance drinks that would look like and taste like beer.

The Executive ban on beer is, of course, a more sudden blow than the brewers expected. It is for them quickly to determine not only the fate of their breweries, but the future of many buildings in which saloons have been kept. The brewer has been to a great extent the father of the saloon. Some years ago a census taken by the Pittsburg *Gazette-Times* showed that the saloons of that city owed the brewers, in mortgages and judgments, more than $5,000,000. In nearly every American city a man who had the willingness and the ability—temperament, perhaps, would be better—to run a saloon could usually find a brewer who would guarantee his lease, find him credit for fixtures, and let him have all the beer he could sell. The consideration was the exclusive use of the brewer's product in the new saloon.

Now the brewer will have to exercise all his business ingenuity and his financial resources to pick his way out of the ruin which, according to the brewers' figures, is about to fall upon 10,000 saloons in this city alone. The saloon fixtures will not bring 10 per cent. of their original cost. The landlords of the saloons will expect the brewers who indorsed the saloon keepers' leases to keep on paying the rent; and saloon rent is high rent for the reason that the presence of a saloon in a building depreciates the value of the remainder of the property. The brewers will hunt for reliable grocers, butchers, stationers and druggists, or, if the neighborhood needs do not call for these, there is the chance of turning the saloon space into living quarters. New York rents, with no construction going on, are at the top of the peak.

What must mock the unhappy but not despairing brewer is the fact that it was not his product that directly brought about the fall of the saloon. It has been the growing popular animosity toward whiskey and gin that has brought nationwide prohibition so near. The brewer never made money directly out of the hard stuff, yet it was his capital that made possible the multifarious places where strong alcoholic drinks were to be had. He set the saloon keeper up in business, and the saloon keeper loyally sold his benefactor's beer but moaned the while because the profits in it were not nearly so large as in whiskey. The brewer built a nest and the cuckoo distiller laid his eggs in it. The brewer had a large, loose business, while the distiller's was safe and compact. The brewer sold to the frequently unbusinesslike saloon keeper, while the distiller extended credit only to the conservative jobber.

With, or through, all of that, the brewer has become a keen business man, and he is likely to make more profitable use of the properties left on his hands than the lucky distiller would be able to make. If the brewer decided that there was money in coffee houses we should see them spring up, and they might be more likely to do better, in the hands of these energetic men, than they have done when run by the merely philanthropic. So far the coffee house, while in theory the perfect and virtuous substitute for the saloon as a poor man's club, has been successful only in those parts of New York where the taste for public coffee drinking is imported—the East Side cafés patronized by people from the south of Europe.

We violate no confidence when we express the positive opinion that the next American Ambassador near the Court of St. James's will be neither THEODORE ROOSEVELT nor ELIHU ROOT, nor again WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT or HENRY CABOT LODGE.

Yesterday, for the first time since boyhood, big, strong men were obliged to reveal the fact that their middle initials stood for Lancelot, or Euripides, or Lionel, or Miltiades.

It is a coincidence worth noting that on the same day that the United States registered the man power for the largest armed force in history the first great American army opened a great offensive.

What a day for Chicago, to have her Cubs and her Cowboy Mayor beaten!

Lacking any other grounds of attack on Mr. SMITH'S record and character, Republican newspapers have started in opposing him as a "Tammany man." They are asserting that when he fills the chair the boss of Tammany Hall will be the real Governor!—*Buffalo Courier.*

And is not that a sufficient reason for declining to vote for even so good a man as ALFRED E. SMITH?

Now for the questionnaire and the headache powders.

PERSHING surprised the Germans, who had been informed by the General Staff that it was the invariable American custom to move on October 1.

Illinois admiration for WILLIAM HALE THOMPSON is nicely limited to Cook county.

When WILHELM declared that he "had left no stone unturned to shorten the war" he probably was thinking of some cathedrals.

Uncle JOE CANNON, nominated for the House for the twenty-third time, might turn over his barrel of acceptance speeches.

I know no party; I know only Germans—*The Kaiser.*

This was spoken to the Krupp workmen. If his Majesty were addressing his troupe of trained Socialists he would call himself an internationalist.

PERSHING'S men began to register at 5 in the morning.

Aviator Hitchcock as a Liberty Loan Feature.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The remarkable escape of Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., has made us all feel as though we knew him personally, and I take the liberty of suggesting that the Liberty Loan committee utilize him as a campaigner for the Liberty Loan. The War Department surely would loan him to the committee for these purposes.

W. E. WINKELMAN.

NEW YORK, September 12.

France to America.

Written for a lady of France. Her request as I remember it: "We French cannot English our feel. Land of free, home of brave. Happy land. Your fathers brave—make free. So you free—brave. Mothers good, you good. Say it English for me."

America, the joyland.
Your sons are brave and gay.
Your daughters sweet as rose blooms
And fairer than the day.
Beneath your starry flag
The men of races old—
Who dared the western seas
To found the land of gold,
Have given boys their courage
And girls their mothers' grace,
And thus Americans became
A generous, gallant race.

APOSTROPHE.

We love you for your courage,
For your help in time of need,
Too big for hate, yet merciless
To filth and crime and greed.
But most of all we love you
Because, like Him we trust,
You prove by deeds, as He did,
You "First loved us."

E. H. BAIRD.

GATLING, THE GUN MAN.

The Centenary of a Versatile American Inventor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is just one hundred years ago since there was born in Hartford county, North Carolina, a man whose father was a well to do planter and slave owner, and from whom he inherited a genius for mechanical invention. The son, when still young, assisted his father in the construction and perfecting of machines for sowing cotton seeds and for thinning the plants. This man, whose centenary occurs to-day September 12, was later to become the inventor of the first practical machine gun that the world has known.

His father saw to it that he was well educated. Later, when he became a school teacher and then a merchant, he did not lose sight of the fact that his natural talents were inclined toward inventing. When he was but 21 years old he perfected a practical screw propeller for steamboats, but his disappointment was keen when he learned that a patent had been granted to John Ericsson for a similar invention a few months earlier.

But this did not discourage the young man, neither did it deter him from going ahead and perfecting inventions, one of which finally made his name familiar throughout the world. Forsaking his native heath, he established himself in St. Louis, Mo., that hustling, bustling city which gave the young inventor new incentive to go ahead. In St. Louis he took the cotton sowing machine as a basis and adapted it for sowing rice, wheat and other grains, and established factories for its manufacture. Even in this respect the country owes him a debt, for by the introduction of these machines he did much to revolutionize the agricultural system in this country.

Being a versatile young man he turned to the study of medicine. He was influenced in this course to a considerable extent by an attack of smallpox, from which he fortunately recovered. At any rate, he completed a course at the Ohio Medical College, taking his degree in 1850. In the same year he invented a hemp breaking machine. At the age of 39 he invented a steam plough.

But it was the outbreak of the civil war that awoke this man to the importance of inventing firearms. He laid aside his plans for the perfecting of agricultural machinery, which he had been working on at the time, and devoted all his time and energy to the perfecting of firearms inventions. He was living in Indianapolis when he conceived the idea of the rapid fire machine gun which is associated with his name.

He labored over his plans for an entire year, and then, in 1862, he had succeeded in perfecting a gun that would discharge 350 shots a minute. He submitted his rapid fire gun to Washington, and found, as he did on later occasions, that there was a vast amount of red tape to be broken before his gun could be taken up and adopted. The war was practically over before the Federal authorities consented to its official adoption.

But it is to the credit of this young man that he permitted nothing to discourage him. With the knowledge that his first gun was a practical firearm he persisted in his efforts to improve it. At the end of ten years he had the satisfaction of having his gun adopted by practically every civilized nation in the world. England alone bought on the average two or three guns to every one sold to this Government.

The wonderful inventor of the first practical machine gun, the gun that was used extensively by the United States in the Spanish-American war, the gun that has given way to the Lewis and the Browning in the present world war, died in New York on February 26, 1903. His name was Richard Jordan Gatling.

AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, September 12.

OUT COMES THE WHEEL.

An Advocate of Bicycling Sees Signs of Its Renascence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I read with pleasure the letters from "Over Forty-five" and Manuel Margolin which were printed in last Sunday's SUN in response to my "Bring Out the Bike" letter, and it is indeed gratifying to see others who share my belief in the merits of the bicycle give voice to their sentiments. Motorless Sundays will most assuredly bring cycling as a recreation and means of economical transportation into greater prominence, and will prove a blessing in disguise to the confirmed motorist, whose muscles have become soft and flabby through disuse, if he can only be induced to mount the simple two wheeler and thus obtain some real, health building exercise.

I have already noticed a tendency in this direction. Last Sunday I saw a man who owns four cars contentedly pedalling a bike, and apparently enjoying it. I know of a motorist out in Illinois who found that it was costing him a pretty penny every time he turned over his big motor for trivial errands. He is now using a wheel for these short trips, saving money for himself and gas for Uncle Sam. As the necessity for conserving fuels grows more acute we must turn to other ways of getting about. In England and France pleasure motoring has been entirely prohibited for the past three years, and men and women from every walk of life who formerly rode in motors are now pedalling the democratic bike, and better fitting themselves for war time living conditions.

Since he "who saves serves," then the 2,900,000 cyclists—estimated—of the United States are unquestionably doing their bit. More power to their knees.

W. T. FARWELL, Jr.

KEW GARDENS, September 12.

Tempo di Marcia for the National Anthem.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "The Star Spangled Banner" is almost always played in a slow, dragging, dreary way which makes it appear like a funeral march. It is remarkable what an improvement there is in it if it is played and sung in much faster time than is generally the case. It puts snap and life in it which it is impossible to give to it when played in the ordinary sad, slow way. Let some conductor speed it up just once as a trial and the difference for the better will be so marked that he will think he is playing something new and he will never return to the old funeral march time.

A. C.

NEW YORK, September 12.

An Appeal From Paradise.

Paradise correspondence Monticello Advance.

A rain would be appreciated very much in Paradise.

Worries of a Sunflower Arcadia.

From the Emporia Gazette.

If it wasn't for chickens and children Emporia would not have more than one neighborhood row a year.

GERMAN PLACE NAMES IN NEW YORK STATE.

What Shall Be Done With Them? The Communities Themselves Must Decide, Says the Secretary of the New York State Geographic Board.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Many citizens of New York are expressing through the press their conviction that the State ought to purge itself of its German place names. This sentiment has been so often made public that a few comments on the general proposition may be timely.

For a State as large as New York and with its place names running to thousands it is rather surprising that those of German origin are so few; probably in total they do not exceed forty. The State has so long a history that these names have very different historical values, and any effort to eliminate them might well take account of the fact that with some a part of our pioneer history is recorded. The Germans who settled in the valley of the Hudson with the help of Queen Anne and spread to the west up the Mohawk and to the east into the hills of Rensselaer and Columbia counties had nothing in common with the German of to-day except the same Teutonic strain which was soon to enter the blood of the kings of England. The form of these ancient names is unquestionably freshly offensive to us, but if they are to be routed out with them must go historical associations two centuries old.

There are other German names which date back a half or three-quarters of a century, and there is a series of names which may be called new in the sense that they are so recent as to be entitled to no claim from history or association.

In dealing with this kind of nomenclature one must first be sure that the German name in question is not of Dutch origin. This being determined, other inquiries lend themselves. There is a town of German in Chenango county which is a century old and was named after General Obadiah German, whose name was originally spelled Germand—thus there is no German about it. There is a town in Oswego county spelled Schroeppel which has been on the map for almost a hundred years, but its origin is hidden in its common pronunciation of "Scruple." Nassau, with us, is of Dutch and English associations, notwithstanding its present place on the map of Europe.

These German place names as a whole may be conveniently divided, first, into the Land Office names, of which I may cite Dresden, Hamburg, Potsdam, Vienna and Hanover. These are names of just such historical standing in the nomenclature of places in western and northern New York as Utica, Syracuse, Geneva and Ithaca. When these lands were patented and first surveyed, township and settlement names were applied by the agents in the most haphazard way, with the help of an atlas and a classical dictionary; therefore in this respect Potsdam is in the same category in our nomenclature as Syracuse and is absolutely without historical German association.

A second division would be the old German names left by the Hudson and Mohawk valley settlers; among which are New Paltz, Germantown, New Hamburg, Palatine, Herkimer, Danube, Blenheim, Manheim, Minden, Oppenheim, Austerlitz and the various Berlins, five in number.

Later German settlement is represented by a few names which have come into use within the last one hundred years, although they are all at least a half century old: Hoffman, Mentz, New Bremen, Naumburg or Prussian Settlement and Getzville. Finally there are the more recent German names, such as Kreischerville, Bohemia, Bergholtz, Leibhardt, Hoffmeister, Wurtemburg and Fleischmanns. Dolgeville belongs in this list, but this is a name which has lost its German sound, although the place was established and remained for a number of years as an exclusively German settlement. Apart from all these, perhaps, rises the name of General von Steuben, whose services to the American patriots in the Revolution are commemorated by one of our counties.

Whether or not these German names, old and new, shall remain on our map rests primarily with the residents of the places they designate. In the absence of any legislation by Congress or general order from the Post Office Department (which could effect only post office names) changes can be inaugurated only on the initiative of their residents through county, town and village boards. The State Board of Geographic Names has no mandatory power in this matter, though no substitute names can, under the statute, be adopted without its approval; it has the further power of recommending alternative names in case the communities of interest so desire. There is undoubtedly a stern public sentiment that would blot out the whole category and clean up the face of our landscape, but it would seem that the communities themselves must decide this matter.

JOHN M. CLARKE,
Secretary, New York State Board of Geographic Names.

ALBANY, September 12.

DRAFTED AND DISCARDED.

The Cost of Sending a Soldier to Camp and Back Home.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Ten days ago a Brooklyn boy, having been duly passed by his local board, left for Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Ga.

That young man is now back in Brooklyn, having been rejected by the camp authorities owing to his being slightly under the minimum weight and somewhat small in chest measurement.

On arrival at Camp Gordon this Brooklyn boy was assigned to a company made up of twenty-eight squads of eight men each. Of these 224 men, thirty-six were sent home, chiefly for physical reasons, and the return ticket of each one of them to New York city cost the Government $28.45, or, including seven days pay, $37.15.

All of these men returned were not from New York city, some being from as far up the State as Rochester, but the Brooklyn local board, first referred to, had six of the thirty-six.

This waste of public money should be remedied. If it is possible in one company from one camp, what is the result when multiplied by the many companies in the many camps scattered from coast to coast?

Another phase of the situation is deserving of attention. Here were thirty-six men taken from their regular employment, and, ten days after, thrown back again, without positions in many cases, and even though their employers might be willing to reemploy them, they were unable to do so owing to the fact that the local boards, I am informed, frequently send them off to other camps, only to be returned again.

Some one is responsible for this lack of coordination, and that some one should take prompt action to remedy it.

NEW YORK, September 12. AGFA.

THE JUDICIOUS QUITTER.

When to Quit and When Not to Quit, That's the Question.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Years ago a lady asked me why I drank whiskey.

I told her it was because I loved it. Observe that I said "love," not "like."

She exclaimed: "Oh, don't say that. Say anything but that."

I replied that I would be a great fool to drink it if I did not love it.

She was shocked; but I still think I was right.

I gave up whiskey later, finding that it was hurting me. Believing that gin was less injurious I tried that, but, though less so, it was also harmful, so I quit that.

All this comes to mind because of what some of your correspondents write about the tobacco habit. I have never had occasion to quit smoking, for it has never hurt me, though I have smoked for more than fifty years. If it hurt me I should quit it. It is not a question of will power at all. It is plain, ordinary common sense.

I did quit coffee for a year on the advice of my physician, though I was what he called a coffee fiend, but I found no benefit from the abstinence, so I drank coffee again as freely as ever. No evil effects discernible.

The man who does not break a habit which is hurtful to him prefers his indulgence to his welfare. If he pleads a lack of will power he simply indicts his own intelligence.

If a man finds smoking injurious to him and still smokes he is a fool.

DAVID A. CURTIS.

NEW YORK, September 12.

LOUIS THE REVIEWER.

Author of Myriad Books, He Tells How to Write 'Em Up.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why does a book reviewer these days invariably give a sort of synopsis of the story, novel or other fiction? Thirty years ago it was not customary. Why does he spoil a buyer's curiosity by quoting long passages from a new book?

By so doing a real book lover will not feel inclined to wish to buy and read it. For instance, in last Sunday's review of "The Ghost Garden" THE SUN reviewer recapitulates almost every item of interest in the letters; then chooses an excerpt that tells us most of the author's incentive to produce the work.

Now, I am surely not willing to waste a dollar to purchase it, since I know what it's all about. The main facts of the book he has already stated—then what do I care about how the writer has enlarged and embellished each item? This method is self-destructive; at once it defeats any large sales and the publisher suffers therefrom.

As to poetry books, it is all very well to quote one short poem, just to show the quality of the poet's diction. But pray, stop here; do not captiously point out one wrong rhyme, &c., that appears in one volume. Why, our best poets born in Boston, &c., made the same mistakes—yet no one censures the sextet!

My new method would find favor with the book buying public:

State the title of the book. Then make a short comment on the style of the writer; and end by saying that it is either good or mediocre. The title is a sufficient index as to the contents of the work. Now, if the reviewer craves to show his powers of writing, let him give a short biography of the author. This will be more of interest to the bibliophile than a review of the book. I am sure more books will be sold this way. "My man, curiosity is more powerful than foregiven knowledge," said the Duke of Wisdom at a summer's banquet.

Two days ago an artist friend gave me a French book to read. He did not say a word about its contents. I was all expectancy. I started reading as a hunter enters a dark forest. After the first page I felt compelled to read on. The story grew complicated—a hint to unravel the plot. I was chained to the chair. At one sitting I had read the short story.

Now, had I read a review the story would have fallen flat—very flat.

LOUIS M. EILSHEMIUS,
Supreme Spirit of the Spheres.

NEW YORK, September 12.

LIMITS TO BRAVERY.

Will Our Heroes From France Dare Suggest That Girls Learn to Cook?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Can it be possible that Mrs. N. A. Wilcox has forgotten that the American man these past few years has been educated to a higher plane of thought and appreciation of woman than to consider her from the point of view of a cook and a washwoman?

This was man's idea of a wife during the dark ages, before the awakening of reform and before woman elevated him above his sordid habits of dining and fitted him to appreciate her learned discourses on calories and how scientists had discovered that the French people were suffering from malnutrition, as she prepared a nutritive dinner from a can.

When our boys come back from France they will probably be brave enough to dispute our scientists about the malnutrition of a people whose prowess, persistency and individuality have won the admiration of all and which will be written in history as a marvel of the age. They might even dare to suggest that some of the same malnutrition that the French people have suffered from would benefit other peoples, as President Lincoln was reported to have said that he would like to send some of his other Generals the same kind of whiskey General Grant used.

But our boys from France will never be brave enough to even hint to our girls that if they wish to find husbands they learn to cook.

JAMES D. DEWELL, Jr.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., September 12.

The American Girl.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Hurrah for the "Bachelor" who admires the American girl—cook or no cook. He has the right spirit, and knows if he can win an honorable American girl she will do everything in her power to make him happy, even to learning to cook; and she needn't be afraid of the French girl, either, as long as she seasons with coquetry, which makes women attractive to men.

One girl I know is losing offers of marriage right along because she is too positive in her manner to men. They are afraid of her, although she is really charming to live with.

VIRGINIA VANE.

MONTCLAIR, N. J., September 12.

The Fountain of Youth.

Knicker—A man is as old as he looks.
Bocker—As old as he looks in uniform.

BURLESON ASSAILED AS ARCH POLITICIAN

Representative Miller of Minnesota Bitterly Attacks Postmaster-General.

CALLS HIM TYRANNICAL

Asserts This Treatment Is Responsible for Inefficiency of the Mail Service.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—The alleged adjournment of politics came to a violent end in the House to-day, and Republicans and Democrats staged a free for all. Representative Heflin (Ala.) started the ball rolling when he attempted to reply to the speech made a few days ago by Representative Rodenberg (Ill.), in which Mr. Rodenberg took issue with the President's assurance that "politics is adjourned."

Mr. Heflin grew very excited and very red in the face, but his answer either was not considered satisfactory by his Democratic colleagues or else the Rodenberg speech made a deep wound in the Democratic hide, because several others felt it necessary to supplement his answer.

In the midst of all of this Representative Miller (Minn.), Republican, doubled the uproar by assailing the Postmaster-General. Mr. Miller brought forth a reply from Mr. Moon (Tenn.) chairman of the House Post Office Committee, which was anything but parliamentary and quite the hottest morsel of the entire battle.

Called "Arch Politician."

The Postmaster-General was denounced by Representative Miller as "the arch politician of the time" and the principal cause of the demoralizaton of the mail service. Mr. Miler said criticism of a public official is justified only when the public welfare requires it, but that the mail service was in a truly deplorable condition, "forced there by the unrelenting and oppressive hand of Albert S. Burleson."

After drawing a verbal picture of the men in France almost completely cut off from communication with their families at home, Mr. Miller said "these conditions come from causes which are not hard to find. Investigation discloses that the mail service is demoralized, a demoralization that results from a tyrannical, even brutal, treatment of the hundreds of thousands of postal employees by the Postmaster-General and from certain policies adopted that seem to ignore all consideration of efficiency.

"We who knew Mr. Burleson before he became Postmaster-General expected he would administer that office along the narrowest and most bitterly partisan lines. We are in no sense disappointed. He is the arch politician of the times. He can see no proposition except in a bitterly partisan way. If any of you are in doubt, ask any one who served with him in Congress."

Says Figures Are Juggled.

Mr. Miller said Postmaster-General Hitchcock left the department self-supporting and with a balance in its favor, and that Mr. Burleson juggled the figures to make it appear that this surplus was actually a deficit and that the surplus which appeared at the end of the first year of Burleson's administration had been built up by Hitchcock.

Mr. Miller particularly denounced Mr. Burleson's attitude toward organized labor, and charged that the Civil Service Commission has been made an agency of the Postmaster-General, its freedom destroyed and its capacity to act justly and fairly taken away.

The greatest cause of inefficiency in the postal service is Mr. Burleson's tyrannical treatment of the 300,000 employees under him, Mr. Miller asserted.

"Apparently to see workers well paid, contented and in high spirits, doing their best, drives him to frenzy," said Mr. Miller. He then detailed alleged machinations practised by Mr. Burleson to prevent certain postal employees from receiving increases in pay granted them by Congress and told of Mr. Burleson's particularly strong opposition to the postal employees' organizations.

Affiliated With Labor Federation.

"Some of these postal associations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and that crime Mr. Burleson never can forgive," Mr. Miller added. "For some reason—we do not even speculate on what it is—Burleson hates labor unions."

Mr. Miller concluded his speech by reviving the charge that the Burleson farm was worked not only by convict labor, but that the contract specifically required that young convicts, aged convicts and other criminals physically unable to do really heavy work, were used because they were cheaper.

Representative Moon (Tenn.), who never has been regarded as much of a friend of Mr. Burleson's but who is not particularly fond of Mr. Miller either, replied that the Minnesota Representative was a "political coward" declared that his charges against Mr. Burleson were untrue and said that attacking the character of a man in Mr. Burleson's position in times like these was little short of treason. Mr. Moon insisted, too, that the postal service was highly efficient.

Mr. Moon's Defence.

"An attack of this sort is the inevitable result of low breeding," said Mr. Moon, "and a low order of the commonest kind of mind. With the complacency of a political coward he comes here and makes false charges against a public official. I cannot call them charges; they are mere slanders.

"Mr. Burleson is able to defend himself. If the gentleman will go to Mr. Burleson and face to face repeat these charges, instead of standing here like a coward and making them, the Postmaster-General will give him [illegible] which is demanded by an attack of this kind."

Representative Focht (Pa.), Republican, interrupted to demand why the mail sent to soldiers overseas was so very much delayed and poorly handled and in answer to this Mr. Moon attempted to shift the blame on to the shoulders of Gen. Pershing. He said the army handled the mails in France.

"I want to say that I think it is due to the rankest inefficiency on the part of the Post Office Department," Mr. Focht rejoined. "The employees of that department are the hardest worked and the poorest paid in the Government service."

A Georgian's Defence of the Automobile.

From the Commerce News.

Out at the old country church the mule and buggy has been knocked higher than a kite by the automobile because automobiles don't break loose like the mule did, nor do they gnaw the shade trees in the churchyard.

Home Knitting for the Canal Zone.

From the Panama Canal Record.

No change is apparent in the housing situation, the last house from which the Commissary Purchasing Agent attempted to obtain samples advising that they would be unable to book any new business for at least ten months.