

The Sun THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1919. MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS is not responsible for the contents of any advertisement published in this paper.

people in the article is as proof of Holy Writ that in this season the normal mind, reverts to good, old-fashioned sentiment. To-day is not for Kant but for the higher philosophy which we believe Virginia accepted;

The Admiral and the Secretary. Two widely different views of the proper method of awarding the highest naval honor for distinguished service rendered are expressed by the Admiral who was in actual command of our navy's operations in European waters and by the civilian Secretary of the Navy, sitting in Washington.

In his letter to Secretary DANIELS declining to accept for himself the Distinguished Service Medal which had been withheld from thirteen of nineteen officers under Admiral Sims's personal command and by him recommended for the decoration, and again from five of the nine Rear Admirals similarly by him recommended, he remarks with the force of obvious truth that "there can be no better judge of the relative merits of the services of a number of officers than the responsible commanding officer of the organization in which they are serving."

On the other hand, in his letter of December 19 to Senator PAOK Secretary DANIELS reminds the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs that the function of award is exclusively with the Board. The Board of Awards, he says, "was established by my order, and its recommendations were only for the information of the Secretary of the Navy. This board, therefore, did not have any statutory authority, its recommendations were not final, and the executive was authorized to act as if no board had been constituted."

The particularly unpleasant feature of the issue thus sharply raised is found in the circumstance, as Admiral Sims faintly but sufficiently indicates, that the ultimate dispenser of Naval Fame's choicest laurels, while passing by so many of the meritorious and duly certified, has by no means overlooked his own family.

Two Hundred Wounded in Siberia? The subjoined news from Washington directs attention again to one of the most perplexing incidents in American history: "Transported 4,000 miles from the far western front in Russia, more than 200 wounded American soldiers arrived recently in Vladivostok and were received in the new military hospital of the American Red Cross only a few days after the anniversary of the signing of the armistices which brought the activities of the American Expeditionary Forces in France to an end."

Who wounded these unfortunate American soldiers? In what cause did they receive their hurts? Does any American in Siberia or the United States know why they were exposed to the fire which laid them low? If any American does, he should tell the rest of us.

One hundred and ten million people are entitled to know why 6,000, or 8,000, or whatever the number is, of their soldiers are in Siberia and why they are not brought home. Are they fighting the ghosts of the German Imperial Government and the Austro-Hungarian Empire?

How to Decline a Nomination for the Presidency. "He is not a candidate, nor will he be one," says a close friend, speaking of a man prominent in the forest of Presidential limber. "A stranger unacquainted with American politics might accept a statement like this—which we quote only as a typical 'year before' announcement—as ending the case for the particular public man. But of course it is only a declaration, in a way of receptivity as opposed to active candidacy. The noted man will not file his nomination in the public records. He will not volunteer."

No man nominated for the Presidency by one of the great parties ever declined to run. One man who at the holiday spirit there, studiously avoiding any worried outlander who looks as if he had recently committed a book about worry.

A Fairy Story. "I will not in any event entertain or accept a nomination as a candidate for President by the Chicago Republican convention or any other convention, for reasons personal to myself."

ment from the man by main strength and went and buried it under three feet of bewitched peat. Then they took the wise man's memory away and made him good-by. "Can't anybody ever find my solution?" asked the old man. "Oh, yes," said the boss fairy. "But it will be a gambling Englishman who will be as ready to throw the dice for a Western island as for an Atlantic Empire."

Patent Governor Smith. Even the season of good will does not dissipate the overshadowing cloud at the Criminal Courts Building. Mr. PROSKATER, designated by the Governor to advise the Grand Jury, refuses to serve because the District Attorney, as Mr. PROSKATER understands him, does not feel that he can furnish to the designated attorney "independent facilities for an investigation of the Grand Jury's charges."

Quit Your Worrying. "Quit Your Worrying" is the title of a book issued by the Radiant Life Press of Pasadena, and as the author, GEORGE WILSON JAMES, dates his preface from that lovely California town we take it that here is a work that may exorciseably attribute to the influence of soil and climate which, we recall the historian DRAPER saying, will ultimately Mexicanize California. But in spite of Professor DRAPER's theory it is disquieting to read Mr. JAMES's book in that, if he is a product of the soil, something is going wrong with California even worse than Mexicanization.

Man's Greatest Failure in the Contest of Material Things. Man is forever congratulating himself on his progress, his genius for inventing and perfecting. Let us offer to him, as a moral rebuff, a reminder of his supreme failure. He has overcome the stubborn earth with tractors and tunnels, the air with planes and bags of helium, the sea with oil engines and submarines. He contracts space with trains and ships, with telegraph and telephone. He expands time with new methods of prolonging life, saving labor and spreading news. He bangs at the doors of cosmos with new theories about radium and electricity and straight lines that bend. While he has not changed the motor energy of the brain or the passion of the heart or repelled the seven deadly sins, he has been able to subject every familiar inanimate thing except one almost perfectly to his own needs.

Mr. Gompers' Error Capable of Doing Harm If Not Corrected. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: A fundamental error is made by Samuel Gompers in his frequent references to the right to strike. Mr. Gompers says that the right to strike is a natural and a law denying it would be a violation of the involuntary servitude amendment. There is no such analogy as he imagines he sees between the case of the workman and the negro slave. The negro slave could not choose his master or his job. He was bought and sold as a chattel.

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The Senate's Consent. President John Adams's Attitude Toward His Constitutional Adversers. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Once upon a time a man universally acknowledged as most learned and strong minded wrote regarding a convention negotiated by him as follows: "I have considered the advice and consent of the Senate to the ratification of the convention with France under certain conditions. I would have been more conformable to my own judgment and inclination to have agreed to that instrument unconditionally, yet as in this point I found I had the misfortune to disagree with the majority of the Senate, I judged it more consistent with the honor and interest of the United States to ratify it under the conditions prescribed than not at all."

The Good Old Times. This writer once asked his grandfather about the good old times of long ago. But he said these good old times were not the good old times of his grandfather, who lived in colonial times. Was there ever any better time than now if we have the grit to play the game fair and square?

A Challenge to Friends of French War Orphans. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I have just read in THE SUN that Colonel Green of New York city has adopted nine French war orphans. Last spring my wife and I adopted fourteen. I have just adopted twenty-six more, making forty we are now taking care of. If Colonel Green or any one else will equal that I will adopt ten more.

With a Gift of Narcissus Bulbs. I send to you this Christmas Day Three jewels of the Spring Enveloped in casahuate rough and brown Of Nature's fashioning. A little earth, a little sun, And in the heart of each gem Will rise a star in likeness to The Star of Bethlehem.

A Kansas Night Hound. Our prize winning poem this week is clipped from the Kansas Industrialist and is called: KANSAS AT NIGHT. I did not know how brittle Was the silence. The quick, shrewd bark of a hound, The howl of a wolf, the wailing cry, Breaking the stillness into fragments Like silvers of bright looking-glasses.

Never a Bit of It in the Winds That We Like the Best. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Some twenty years of frontier life, a large part of which was spent in the deserts of the western highlands, impels me to add my testimony to William B. Thom's opinion of the salubrity of the air of arid regions. Perhaps the dust content of desert air is greater than that of the humid regions of the East. If so the human breathing apparatus is likely to get more of it. It is doubtful, however, if the dust content of the air out of doors, per se, has much effect upon a tuberculous patient on way to or under the influence of desert air is worth strong emphasis: it is biologically clean; that is, it is pretty free from germ life. Wounds heal by first intention. Blood poisoning, unless from extraneous infection, is extremely rare. Meantime to the open air does not open purity, it "works" or dries. And there are quite a number of things characteristic of the air of humid regions.

Threat to Resign Brought Harmony Out of Chaos, Then Victory, He Says. Foch won the war, declares Gen. Bliss. Threat to Resign Brought Harmony Out of Chaos, Then Victory, He Says. Foch won the war, declares Gen. Bliss. Threat to Resign Brought Harmony Out of Chaos, Then Victory, He Says. Foch won the war, declares Gen. Bliss.

With Hoover in Charge of All Distributions Problem Would Be Solved. Special Despatch to THE SUN. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Ferdinand Foch, Marshal of France, was the gigantic outstanding figure produced by the world war. This was the opening statement of that avialed soldier, Gen. Tanker H. Bliss, American Peace Commissioner and representative of the United States on the War Council, in the first interview accorded by the veteran since his return to the United States with the remaining members of the American Peace Commission.

Threatened to Resign. This action was taken after disaster had followed disaster, culminating with the defeat of the Italians at Caporetto, the decision of the Supreme War Council to form a great general reserve to meet the gathering German attack. Foch, appointed to command the reserve, organized the disaster to the British campaign and Foch was then theoretically made supreme.

How to Kill Bolshevism. Gen. Bliss thinks it was a mistake to have permitted Russia to mobilize 20,000,000 men. Millions of those who were never used in the war, but by the use of the Russian army should have been used to keep a big German army away from the west.

FOR MEN IN UNIFORM. Dances—United Club, 2 East Fourth Street, 8 P. M. Bluebird Club, 10 East 10th Street, 8 P. M. Moving Pictures—K. of C. Retreat, 10 East 10th Street, 8 P. M. Christmas Entertainment—Wanted: High School and College Graduates; wounded soldiers and sailors at the Navy Club, 10 East 10th Street, 8 P. M. Canadian Club of New York, open house, 10 East 10th Street, 8 P. M. Women's Motor Corps, special picnic, 10 East 10th Street, 8 P. M.

ARMY MEN IN HORSE SHOWS. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Legislation to enable officers and enlisted men to participate in Government fairs in horse shows and fairs both in this country and abroad was recommended by Secretary Baker in a letter received today by Senator Wadsworth (N. Y.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture. Mr. Baker said the Department planned to enter a team of American officers in the mounted military contest in the Olympic games at Antwerp and International Horse Show in London in 1920.

FLOOD DAMAGE IN FRANCE. PARIS, Dec. 24.—Heavy continuing rains had flooded the rivers in the northeastern section of France, causing the factories at Reims to shut down, and raising above the bridges at Helfort, cutting the roads and interrupting wireless communication. Much damage to property has occurred. Yesterday the wind blew over the electric lines at Nancy. Several fishing boats have been wrecked on the north and west coasts and several drownings have been reported.

HEDLEY NEEDS \$4,000,000. Interborough Chief Hops Capitalists Will Aid Him. Frank Hedley, president of the Interborough Rapid Transit Co., declared yesterday that he needed \$4,000,000 in cash needed to meet pressing obligations January 1. Mr. Hedley said he felt that the matter was so vital to the public and so important to the city that he would appeal to the stockholders to meet the need. He said he would not ask for more than \$4,000,000.

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The Sun Calendar THE WEATHER. Eastern New York, southern New England, fair and much colder today; snow on the hills with rising temperature; northwest winds.

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