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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1909.

England and the Centenary.

An unusual incident attended the celebration of the Lincoln centenary, an incident as significant as it was gracious. We refer to the official participation of the British government in the national tribute to Lincoln's memory. On February 9 Mr. Bryce transmitted to the State Department a dispatch from the British foreign office noting the preparations which were being made in this country to celebrate the centenary, and requesting the Ambassador to convey to the Secretary of State "the cordial sympathy of his majesty's government with the spirit which inspires the United States in this celebration and their desire to share in paying a tribute of honor and appreciation to the strength and simplicity of President Lincoln's character, which not only conferred such inestimable benefits on the people of the United States, but tended to promote the freedom and progress of the human race."

Covering this dispatch, Mr. Bryce sent a personal message declaring his admiration for the "splendid gifts and noble character" of Lincoln and his happiness at the privilege of conveying the official expression of the "feeling entertained by the whole British people, which joins with the people of the United States in revering the memory of the great and good President."

As Stanton said, Lincoln's fame is with the ages; the whole world is better because he lived and died. Our heritage is Britain's, and Britain's ours. The communication from the British government, inspired, no doubt, by the thoughtfulness of its representative here, is a tactful recognition of a common history and a common destiny.

Illinois still refuses to permit Mr. Hopkins to do more than peep through the keyhole of the door of hope.

Dr. Parkhurst and the Press.

"The matter of anonymous authorship is of practical importance to all readers of newspapers and magazines. To read an article by an unknown author is to put one's self under the instruction of an unaccredited teacher."—Rev. C. H. Parkhurst, in the New York Evening Journal.

This idea, with a further elucidation of it along the same lines, has led to a good-tempered discussion, in which Mr. Arthur Brisbane, speaking impersonally through the paper he edits, is participating with his usual brilliance and force.

As a matter of fact, there is nothing anonymous in or about the well-conducted newspaper.

A newspaper, like a man, must have character and individuality. It gets its character and individuality through its news columns, no less than through its editorial columns.

It is the newspaper that speaks and teaches and leads. It is responsible for everything appearing unsigned in its columns—opinion, doctrine, narrative, or mere chronicle of fact. It is the accredited teacher. It adopts the views it disseminates—the views of its corps of thinkers and writers. It stands sponsor for them. There is not even an element of anonymous authorship.

Views expressed by a newspaper of character and individuality carry more weight and force unquestionably than such views would possess if promulgated in the name of the writer. They become not merely one man's views—but the newspaper's views. Its record is open to the world—as open as the day. Its readers know whether it is moved by holy or unholy motives, whether its aims are high or low, its policies honest or sordid. What can the public know of the influences actuating the individual? And the average writer writes freest and best when his work is impersonal.

Dr. Parkhurst's argument that "an opinion approximately measured by the moral and intellectual competency of the man or woman by whom the opinion is expressed" is sound, but he overlooks the important fact that such competency is—not approximately, but literally—measured by the newspaper before the opinion of the man or woman is adopted and put forth as the opinion of the newspaper.

Take the good and able Dr. Parkhurst himself by way of illustration. It is not easily conceivable that his doctrines would be more convincing and potent for good, in some quarters, if enunciated by the Evening Journal itself, rather than under his name, because the approximate measurement of the man, where he is not well known, unfortunately may be such as to minimize the importance of the opinions he holds?

As anonymous authorship does not enter into the equation of the well-ordered newspaper, really there is no basis for contention or even an academic discussion with Dr. Parkhurst.

If he had said that there should be in every newspaper, besides character and individuality, a personality also—such a personality, for example, as Watterson puts into the Courier-Journal and as Brisbane gives the Evening Journal—then he would have proclaimed a truth. The waning editorial influence in the last quarter of a century of many otherwise great American newspapers is explained, undoubtedly, by the lack of this personality.

"Mr. Bryan likens himself to Noah," says the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot. And Noah finally did make a landing, did he not?

A Disclosure in Prospect.

The expectation of some quite interesting official correspondence is destined to be fully realized by the adoption in the House of Representatives of a resolution introduced by Representative Hay, an efficient member of the House Military Committee, calling on the War Department for copies of all correspondence relating to cadets at the Military Academy who have been found deficient in studies or conduct since January 1, 1908. This was the information which was sought by a similar resolution introduced in the Senate by Mr. Dick. That resolution was referred to the Senate Military Committee, whence it emerged carefully "edited" so as to extract from the War Department by Senatorial requisition some uninteresting and unimportant statistics confined to the subject of hazing, which appears to have prevailed to a minor extent at West Point. Nobody need get excited over what the War Department will be able to furnish the Senate in the way of information in that particular. But it is of interest, and of importance as well, to know about the recent restorations of certain cadets to the Military Academy. Those cadets were originally recommended for discharge by the academic board. Under the law they had to be discharged by the President. Later, and after some correspondence between Washington and West Point, it was announced that these cadets would be restored to the Academy. It required a recommendation to that effect from the academic board, and curiosity has been awakened as to the methods attending such a reversal of the view of the academic board.

Representative Hay has rendered a distinct service to military discipline by his persistence in getting this resolution adopted, especially after the Senate Military Committee had frustrated the effort in the Senate to get the information which ought to be fully known. It is suspected that the disclosures, by reason of the Hay resolution, will be enlivening and illuminating.

We chronicle no secret when we state that Mr. Taft is Miss Columbia's valentine!

Purchasable Emblem of Heroism.

The government has come very near placing in peril the value of the medals and badges which were authorized some time ago by Congress to be issued to those of the naval service who took part in the civil war, the war with Spain, the Philippine insurrection, and the march upon Pekin. Congress failed to appropriate all the money which would be required for the manufacture of these emblems, and the Navy Department was forced to confine the issue to those then of the service who were entitled to receive the decorations. Others not of the navy, but who had performed the service in the civil war and the war with Spain, and the other operations, and who were as fully entitled to the badges as those who remained in or returned to the navy, were told they could have their badges, upon the verification of their claims as to service, at the rate of 75 cents per badge. This gives a commercial quality to the medal which most people who wish to own one or who desire to wear one in public dislike to have associated with a decoration indicating honorable service.

The War Department managed the situation much better with their shortage of funds. The badges were made a part of the uniform and, of course, only those entitled to wear the uniform were permitted to receive the medals. It has been one of the inconsistencies of the whole medal business that there should be any restriction in the issue of the emblems. If an officer or enlisted man rendered the service which is indicated by a badge, he ought to receive it, or, if he is dead, his heirs should be the recipients. Moreover, Congress ought to appropriate sufficient money to have the badges issued where they belong, without limitation, more or less arbitrary, in both the War and Navy Departments. It is unpleasant for men who are entitled to a badge to be told they may buy one. It is not a question of cost, which is little enough under the circumstances, but if there is any sentiment attaching to a badge it ought not to be disturbed by having the medal placed on sale like a bargain counter trinket.

Lincoln day seems to have chased all the poets, near-poets, and not-quite-so-near-poets out of their lairs.

A Workless Scheme.

When lovely woman stoops to conquer, a measure of success generally attends her efforts, as you may have noticed. Man thinks he is diplomatic, but more sure things have been nearly discovered in this world by the women thereof than e'er were dreamed of in masculine philosophy.

The worst thing that may be said by way of adverse criticism of woman and her wily schemes is that she takes no account of the practical elements in the solution of problems she undertakes to unravel. She is great on framing up methods of procedure calculated to crush man into the very dust of creation, but she invariably overreaches herself and spoils her own plans by making them inevitably conclusive, regardless of collateral issues and relative conditions.

We have in mind in this connection an interesting talk recently delivered by one of America's best-known women, in which is outlined a plan for humbling man to a point of utter prostration and securing from his unwilling hands every boon of suffrage and whatnot womankind desires. The project is impossibly simple—hence, of course, simply impossible. But it would work havoc, nevertheless, if put in operation ruthlessly. Do we grow apparently paradoxical? Mayhap; we are seeking to conduct the argument at this point along feminine lines, you know.

Well, anyway, this wonderful female of whom we speak advances the suggestion that women refuse to wear anything by way of apparel for a period of six months, save and excepting the plainest of calico and the like, cut on straight and severe lines, and devoid of all ornament. Furthermore, that she likewise refuse to adorn her head with any covering other than a cheap scarf; that her shoes be of the most economical persuasion, and so forth, and so on. This, avers this feminine Solomon, "would bring on the most strenuous business panic the world ever knew, and that would tame man beyond the faintest shadow of doubt."

Womanlike, the perpetrator of this appalling and altogether novel proposition writes "Q. E. D." beneath the conclusions immediately set forth in the paragraph preceding this, and contents herself with gratifying visions of mere man's annihilation without more ado. Alas! she should fly the C. Q. D. signal instead. Believing she has reached the end of her troubles, she has, in fact, but embarked a little way on a perfect sea of them. Theoretically, she has man vanquished, rushed to the ropes and gasping for breath; practically, she is not getting anywhere at all.

Behold how man gently puts his antagonist down and out; observe the ease with which he smashes her playhouse in all of its beauty and seeming strength. How could the women ever manage to go six months without the frills, flounces, furbelows, and fancy fixings they might have for the asking?

Cruel man! She never once thought of that!

"February 12 can never make a very useful holiday. It is too early for baseball and too late for football," says the St. Louis Republic. That would seem to be a final and compelling reason for making it a legal holiday.

A correspondent, writing concerning a recent editorial in The Washington Herald calling attention to the fact that a scientist claims to be able to make hens double their egg output by painting the fences, hen houses, and so forth, green, inquires "if the same result can be obtained by fitting green goggles to the hens." We think not; the hens would easily see through a device so transparent.

The Allentown Call's contention that "Adam was a Democrat" impresses us anew every time we think of it. Adam's inability to stand prosperity may be taken as convincing circumstantial evidence that the Call is right, we think.

Of course, if you are unwilling to admit that a "Lincoln Way" should be constructed from Washington to Richmond, you will not be so grouchy as to object that it be constructed from Richmond to Washington.

The Cubans pronounce their President's name "Gometh," we are informed. The disposition to lisp will be forgiven a baby republic like Cuba, however.

"Who is the handsomest man in the States?" asks the Savannah News. People desiring to arrive at a conclusion in this weighty matter by a process of elimination will invariably begin by saying, "Well, not 'Little Joe' Brown, anyway."

Notwithstanding the fact that the peach crop was killed in his honor while in Georgia recently, Mr. Taft probably will not be surprised if some admiring Cracker sends him a crate of luscious Elbertas later along in the season.

The Constitution of the United States is apt to swallow uncomplainingly any dose the Congressional doctors may concoct for its assimilation. It is used to heroic treatment.

There is, we suspect, a Pittsburg man named Oliver who is firmly convinced that Senator Knox is indisputably eligible for the State portfolio in Taft's Cabinet, and that, moreover, it would be little short of a crime to reject the same.

The Russian Czar has presented the German Kaiser 100 wild geese. This will save his German majesty the trouble of chasing any more for some time to come.

"We never boast in an unseemly manner," says the modest Houston Post. Tastes differ in respect to that, let it be remembered in passing.

"Senator Tillman is said to have confessed in secret session of the Senate recently that the suffrage laws of South Carolina were not designed to disfranchise any white voter, and have not done so," says the Norfolk Landmark. Perhaps the Senator's idea was to tell the truth and shame the devil.

"Half a billion for the construction of the Panama Canal! Is that all?" inquires the Richmond News Leader. Well, so far—yes.

The mere fact that the President has backslid once or twice and fallen from grace on occasions during his career does not prove that he is not a true civil service reformer, however.

Satan rebuking sin was never a stunt one-half so comic as some of the vaudeville turns being done nowadays by certain New York theatrical managers anent the elevation and purification of the American stage!

After all that baked 'possum, fried alligator, moccasin stew, and so forth, we have no doubt a planked star-spangled shad of the Potomac will taste just a little better than ever to Mr. Taft, if that be possible.

Some one comes forward with a proposition to make Capt. Hobson governor of Nevada. Now, we suppose, Nevada will be good!

One of the Sultan's favorite wives is said to have been implicated in a recent plot to overthrow him. Since dumping refractory wives into the Bosphorus has somewhat gone out of fashion in Turkey, we suppose this lady will be merely reduced some two or three hundred numbers in rank.

Expensive Senatorial Seats.

From the Baltimore American.

One United States Senator spent over $100,000 for his nomination in the primary election of his State. Evidently, in this case, money was of primary significance if it took a fortune to attain the honor.

Advice to Fools.

From the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

When you wish to show a person how to use a revolver remove the cylinder, put on the safety catch, and keep your finger off the trigger.

Saying Nothing.

From the New York World.

Gov. Hadley, of Missouri, saws wood. That and its accompanying virtue have a distinct advantage over 90-mile horseback rides.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

GREETING.

St. Valentine is next in line,
But easy is his yoke.
To him we may
Our tribute pay
And not go wholly broke.

A modest screed with hearts that bleed
Costs little, I opine.
And so I say,
All hail to-day
The good St. Valentine!

Passing Them Along.

"You know those nondescript Christmas presents I got?"

"You couldn't figure out what they were intended for."

"Just so. I'll paste a crimson heart on each, and then it will be a valentine."

Sarcasm.

"Can I show you samples in gold bricks?"

"I guess not," answered Farmer Whiffletree. "I always buy direct and save middlemen's profits."

Ought Not To.

It really seems to me
Feel absurd
When other people take one
At one's word.

A Caution.

"I'm an actor out of employment. Can you give me work on your farm?"

"Was you in vaudeville or the legit?"

"What difference does that make?"

"A heap. A day on a farm ain't no twenty-minute sketch."

The Grocery League.

"Baseball season is on us."

"So?"

"Yes; the boys around the stove have begun preliminary practice."

Always.

"Never rail at a man too much. Twice is enough."

"Why twice?"

"Because the third rail is dangerous."

MR. TAFT'S HERITAGE.

Financially It Resembles Harrison Bequest to Cleveland.

From the New York Times.

President Roosevelt will transmit to Mr. Taft the same doleful heritage that Mr. Cleveland received from Mr. Harrison in 1893—hard times and a Treasury rapidly being emptied of its available cash. This ought to be a terrible warning to Mr. Taft. In his campaign speeches last summer he so far forget himself as to repeat the stale, partisan slanders about the tariff bill of 1894 as the cause of the panic of 1893, and of the dreadful necessity of issuing bonds to which the country was reduced by the Democratic victory. His Secretary of the Treasury will, as it now appears, very soon be obliged to issue obligations of the government to secure cash to pay its running expenses, and, to complete the parallel and add to his store of comforts, he, too, will have a tariff bill on his hands, as Mr. Cleveland did.

If the incoming Secretary of the Treasury shall soon find himself obliged to sell bonds or certificates of indebtedness to procure money for current expenses, it cannot be said by anybody that the necessity has not been foretold by visible portents. A year ago the Treasury had $250,000,000 on deposit in the national banks. The other day it had $87,000,000. Of actual available cash there is but $40,000,000 in the Treasury. So that the total Treasury fund to be drawn upon for disbursements is now $127,000,000. It is dwindling at the rate of half a million a day. The deficit for the fiscal year to date is $84,000,000. The deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30 next will, it is estimated, amount to $125,000,000, or some $10,000,000 more than Mr. Cortelyou's estimate. Hard times make small incomes. A great falling off from the imports has caused a corresponding falling off in custom-house revenues, and dull business, together with the prohibition movement, has cut into internal revenue receipts. These are continuing causes of diminution, and it can hardly be expected that with a revision of the tariff impending imports will show any considerable increase during the coming months. Indeed, the deficit itself may show a tendency to increase as the months pass.

Where Are We At?

From the New York Evening Post.

Gov. Hughes appoints as Democratic member of his highway commission an excellent citizen who was held to be no Democrat. Mr. Taft chooses for his Secretary of State another admirable citizen whom the Constitution declares ineligible. And the electoral college, following high precedent, casts some votes for William H. Taft, of New York. Perhaps Senator Burrows was awake when he said that Nebraska went solidly for Taft last fall. Accuracy in matters political has become such a contemptible thing that we dare not particularize dogmatically on any subject, save the existence of honest graft and blockheads. It would even be rash to say the Constitution still lives; our Supreme Court itself seems to entertain doubts on this score at times.

Hiding Behind Lincoln's Name.

From the Newark News.

There are, at a low estimate, 2,000 machine Republicans in America who are preparing orations to-day to be delivered at banquets on Lincoln's birthday. The moral lesson eloquently brought out will be that Republicans ought to put aside their petty disputes and differences and stand loyally together, shoulder to shoulder, in the Grand Old Party that Lincoln established, thus enabling it to march ever onward and upward, conveying the nation to the shining shore of peace and prosperity at last. Next morning a few gentlemen in handsome mahogany offices will read these speeches in the papers and smile approvingly as the roar of Wall street mounts to their ears.

A Trifle Theatrical.

From the Baltimore Sun.

Cuba's effort to be its own country is yet in the melodrama stage.

O CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!

April 14, 1865.

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,
The ship has weathered every rock, the prize we sought is won;
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;
But O heart! heart! heart!
O the bleeding drops of red,
Where on the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills,
For you bouquets and ribboned wreaths—for you the shores a-crowding,
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;
Here, Captain! dear father!
This arm beneath your head;
It is some dream that on the deck
You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will.
The ship is anchored safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,
From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;
Exult O shores, and ring O bells!
But I with mournful tread
Walk the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.

—Walt Whitman.

RIGHTS OF JAPANESE.

On the Same Footing as Those of Other Aliens.

Everett P. Wheeler, in the New York Sun.

The Japanese children whom it is proposed to exclude from the California schools are not American citizens. They and their parents are, however, residents of California and are subject to taxation. Their parents do pay taxes, and Japan has the right to expect that an American State shall provide the children with free education, and has the right to complain if an American State refuses to do so. By the treaty of November 22, 1894, between the United States and Japan it is agreed between the two nations that "the citizens or subjects of each contracting party shall enjoy in the territories of the other the same privileges, liberties, and rights" as native citizens or subjects of the most favored nation "in whatever relates to rights of residence." Under the constitution and laws of California all resident children are entitled to education. It is therefore plain that by the agreement which this government has made the State of California has no right to discriminate in educational matters against the children of the Japanese. Under the Constitution of the United States a treaty is the "supreme law of the land," and States are expressly prohibited from making treaties with foreign nations. Therefore there can be no question of State rights. The Supreme Court has in many cases held the supremacy of treaty rights and enforced them in opposition to the statutes of States. In this it was only carrying out the memorable words of Abraham Lincoln—"Come what will, I will keep my faith with friend and foe."

Every European country does claim the same rights for its citizens resident in this country that Japan claims for its citizens who reside here, and the United States makes the same claim for protection to its citizens who reside in foreign countries. The idea that resident aliens have no rights that citizens are bound to respect is a relic of barbarism. Fortunately, there is a Constitution of the United States, and under that instrument aliens have the right to sue in the Federal courts. Their rights have often been enforced in those courts when local prejudice has prevented justice being done in local courts.

Let me add that there was a time when Japan excluded from its empire citizens of foreign countries. At the earnest request of the United States, Japan consented that American citizens should go to Japan and reside and do business there. The outcry on our part against the Japanese who come here in pursuance of a treaty that we ourselves solicited and from which we have reaped great benefits is indecent.

LINCOLN AND THE SOUTH.

Speculation as to His Course Had He Survived

Goldwin Smith, in the New York Sun.

What would Lincoln have done with the South? Of two things we may be sure. Though he could not have changed his official doctrine, he would have put the idea of suppressed rebellion as much out of sight as possible, putting as forward as possible the idea of reunion, and he would have sought counsel and aid of the Southern leaders, especially Lee and Longstreet, by whom counsel and aid would readily have been given. His death threw reconstruction into the hands of men burning with passion, brought on the carpet-bagging government with its natural consequence, the Ku Klux, and made the situation almost desperate. Lincoln's favorite solution for the negro problem had been colonization, but Mexico and Liberia declined, and it must be owned that the example of Santo Domingo or that of Liberia is not encouraging. Whether Lincoln would have given the negro the ballot seems doubtful. He had at one time disclaimed any idea of putting the negro on a level with the white, seeking for him only the right of eating the bread he earned and the protection of the law. He certainly would not have taken the worst course of all, that of giving the negro the ballot, thus acknowledging his right, and then by depriving him of it filling him with the sense of wrong. What will be the end?

CHINESE RAILROADS.

Extension of Means of Communications Throughout the Empire.

David Lambuth, in the Review of Reviews.

China's fatal weakness has been her lack of self-consciousness. This is to be cured by a common education, by postal service, telegraph, and railroads. In 1902 there were 446 post-offices in China; in 1907 there were 2,803. In 1902 20,000,000 letters were posted; in 1907 167,000,000. There are telegraph stations to-day in practically all the 181 prefectural cities and many others. Every province is knit to Pekin with electric wires. The government has just bought over most of the shares in the enterprise, and proposes to turn its large earnings into rapid extension of lines. In November, 1908, orders were issued from Pekin that telegraph service be established with Lassa, in Tibet. There are to-day about 4,000 miles of railroad in China, with over 1,000 miles under construction; so that Kansu is the only province in the empire in which railroads are not already running or projected. Five railroads run into Pekin, and one of these, the Pekin-Kalgan line, is financed, constructed, and run by Chinese without any foreign assistance or advice whatsoever. This road tunnels under the great wall and heads for the Mongolian Desert, and in so doing seems to have cut the spinal cord of the dreaded earth dragon forever. The ministry of communications has recently laid out a scheme for the correlation of all the railroad systems, with two trunk lines bisecting the country from north to south and from east to west, with Hankow as the center, and with radiating lines attached to these great arteries. Railroads are no longer tabooed in the Celestial empire. All concessions now provide for the government's taking possession of the lines after twenty-five years' traffic, and in October, 1908, a censor called upon the government to acquire them sooner, that they might fulfill their mission of "building up trade and consolidating the empire." In the same month the government suggested that a railroad should be run to Lassa to facilitate the administration of Tibet. No wonder the grand lama has left his ancient fastnesses!

Cleaned Up.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

When President Roosevelt shall surrender the keys to his successor there will be no unfinished business on the desk or in any of the pigeon holes. He has cleaned up everything and everybody.

In Regular Order.

From the Houston Chronicle.

"Every man," says Gov. Stubbs, of Kansas, "ought to read his Bible, his ballot, and his newspaper without assistance." All right; only he ought to read his newspaper before he reads his ballot.

Good Suggestion.

From the New York Herald.

And now let every one try to carry some of the beautiful lessons from Lincoln's life into effect and not forget them for another year.

She's an Authority.

From the Atchison Globe.

When children are told what a smart man their father is they look at their mother as if asking her if they are to believe it.

PANAMA CANAL PROBLEM.

Why the Lock Scheme Is Superior to Open Waterway.

From the St. Louis Republic.

Those who have given more than superfilical study to the canal problem know that such a thing as an absolutely open cut from ocean to ocean, without any lock, is practically impossible. There is a difference in the water level of the two oceans of about twelve feet, and this can only be overcome by building a lock, which would, therefore, be necessitated as a feature of the Pacific coast end of the canal, in any event, but this is a relatively subordinate feature in determining the comparative value of the two types of canal. Other more important factors dictated and justified adoption of the lock plan.

The time it would take to complete the work and the cost of construction were very properly classed as important factors. The enterprise will cost less money and will be sooner finished by the plan adopted than could possibly have been the case if the canal had been cut to the level of the Atlantic Ocean instead of being eighty-five feet higher. But more important even than these considerations is the fact that ships will take about eight days in transit across the isthmus in the lock canal, and would have required ten days to navigate a sea-level canal.

This advantage of time follows from the fact that most of the distance is traversed in two great artificial lakes, in which steamships may move at a speed impossible within the wall-confined stretch of a legitimate canal. The Panama Canal the United States is building is a canal in fact for less than one-third of its length.

REACHING A PENSION LIMIT?

Leading Republican Organ Thinks Present System Adequate.

From the New York Tribune.

There must be a limit somewhere to the scope of the pension system. Congress laid down such a limit in the law of 1890, and reaffirmed it in the law of 1908. Why should it be removed now? The trouble with extensions of this sort is that one breeds another, and if the widow who married a veteran forty-eight or forty-nine years after his discharge from the service of the United States is entitled to a pension, it may be urged next that the oldest surviving son or daughter of every veteran is likewise entitled to life support from the government. Under existing laws the nation has provided most generously for the veterans of the civil war and those legitimately dependent upon them and affected by their disabilities. But the line must be drawn somewhere, and Congress, having rounded out our pension system in the legislation of the last four years, ought to set its face against further extensions.

Last year's expenditures on account of military pensions was $155,894,649. That total has been exceeded only once—in the fiscal year 1892-'93, when the back payments authorized by the law of 1890 reached their maximum—and is about $12,000,000 greater than the average expenditure between 1883 and 1907. It is apparent that Congress has been most openhanded in meeting the claims of the civil war pensioners, since but for the increases in rates and the numerous inclusions authorized in the last four years, the annual expenditure would now have fallen to less than $120,000,000. It is time to consider the pension system as adequate and complete.

COUNCIL OF FINE ARTS.

Principle of the Institution Recognized in Congress.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

The people of the country will not be disposed to dispute the assertion that the highest expert authority should be engaged to pass upon designs for the improvement of Washington and upon all art work that is undertaken by the government. There has been, however, a woeful lack of system, order, and properly equipped authority in much that has been done hitherto by grace of Congress, and this winter the President appointed a council of fine arts to supply a long-felt want. His relations with Congress were such that criticism from members of that body was inevitable, and it came on schedule time, which is to say as soon as the appointments were made. The law is quoted to prove that he has exceeded his authority, but the council remains in a position to act.

It is to be noted also that, despite the conflict, bills have been introduced in both Senate and House for the creation of an advisory council, to be appointed by the President, subject to confirmation by the Senate. Under the legislation that is proposed, the office of the supervising architect of the Treasury would be known as the bureau of arts and public buildings, and the architect would have the title of director of arts and public buildings. The council would aid this official in various ways. It would be its duty to advise upon the character, design, site, and landscape treatment of all public works of architecture, painting, sculpture, monuments, parks, bridges; to assist in the selection of competitors where work is to be carried out under competition; to make recommendations for the conservation of public monuments.

Probably the Executive order will stand until the desired legislation is passed, so that there is little danger of a return to chaos. The subject, it should be understood, has been long and carefully considered. It has been given an exhaustive study by committee of the American Institute of Architects, which paid due attention to the practice of foreign governments. We have, therefore, a fully matured scheme that should put a stop to such bickerings as there have been in the past, and be a guarantee that the government art work will compare favorably in all respects with that of other great nations.

"Mere Technicality."

From the New York Journal of Commerce.

The emoluments have been increased while Mr. Knox has been a Senator, and he has been made ineligible for any civil office during the time for which he was elected to the Senate. To reduce these emoluments for two years to the former amount to fit his case would be an obvious evasion. This, it is said, is a "mere technicality," but if the purpose of the Constitution in any particular is to be evaded as a technicality, where is the line to be drawn? Congress is presumed to know what it is about when it creates a new office or increases the emoluments of an existing one, and Presidents are presumed to know what they are about when they make appointments. Meantime, the Constitution is supposed to mean what it plainly says, and not to give way to suit anybody's convenience.

Barbarians of To-day.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Every time a man takes the law into his own hands instead of employing the machinery provided by civilization he becomes a barbarian and stabs society.

NIGHT AND STORM AT GLOUCESTER

I heard the wind last night that cried and wept
Like some old skipper's ghost outside my door;
And on the roof the rain that tramped and tore
Like feet of seamen on a deck storm-swept.
Against the pane the Night with shudderings crept,
And crouched there, wailing; moaning evermore
Its tale of terror, of the wrath on shore,
The rage at sea, bidding all wake who slept.
And then I heard a voice as old as Time;
The calling of the mother of the world,
Ocean, who thundered on her granite crags,
Foaming with fury, meditating crime.
And then, far off, wild minute guns, and, hurled
Through roaring spray, the rush of sails in rags.

—Madison Cawein, in the Forum.

AT THE HOTELS.

"If nothing occurs to disturb the present trend of affairs and the mutual desire of both countries, France and Germany will before very long be on better terms of friendship than they have been for many years," said Edouard Vallard, of Paris, at the New Willard yesterday. Mr. Vallard is on a sightseeing tour of this country, and is full of praise of everything he has seen, and has particular praise for the Capital, whose beauties, he said, in about twenty years would surpass those of any other city in the world.

"The Morocco agreement, which was recently signed by France and Germany, is evidence of the sincere desire of both governments also to be on an official friendly footing. I make this point because the French and German peoples, as such, have long ago forgotten the war of 1870. The business relations between the two countries have always been advantageous and pleasant, and it is only for the purpose of saving the so-called 'national pride' that France officially is still unreconcilable.

"A new generation has grown up and the France of to-day is more bent on improving its opportunities everywhere, instead of lamenting the errors of those who went before them.

"Emperor William," added the Parisian, "has made many well-meant efforts to conciliate France, and has gone out of his way on many occasions to demonstrate to the French people that he sincerely wishes their friendship. Every time he has done so, however, a certain part of the French and German press accused him either of insincerity, on the one hand, or of surrendering Germany's interests to France, on the other.

"If the hotheads of France and the firebrands of Germany would adopt more reason as part of their argument, France and Germany would to-day be friends—good, stanch friends—instead of frigid neighbors. It is time for a change in this programme. Let the demagogues and the yellow press, the chauvinists and the jingoes, retire and make room for good, common sense, and relations between us will improve overnight.

"A German-French alliance would naturally be received with open-mouthed amazement by the world, but more surprising things than that have happened. If it does happen, and it is not at all outside the pale of possibility, the whole world will be the gainer.

"Paris is enthusiastic over President Roosevelt's announced intention to deliver a lecture at the Sorbonne in May of next year. I understand he speaks French fluently, and he would certainly add to his great popularity if he were to deliver that lecture in French."

Otto N. Heller, of Frankfort, Germany, a newspaper writer and art critic, is at the Arlington. He is in this country making a tour of the large educational institutions and picture galleries.

He said: "America is gaining in culture every year. Nations are like men; they begin to cultivate the fine arts when they have satisfied the primeval needs. America has reached that stage when she longs for the beautiful. This is not my first visit to America, and every time I come here I notice a difference in the people, in the towns. Even in the smaller places, with 400 or 500 inhabitants, you see beautiful parks, monuments, and statues.

"Specialization does not suit American ideas, because the American's range of intelligence is not only thorough, but vast. He makes himself proficient not only in one thing, but in many. He is not content to specialize and to leave the rest ignored. An American will never try to hold forth on a subject he does not understand. He would rather listen to other people, and see what he can learn from them.

"So, clever and gifted as he is, he will master a subject quicker than anybody else. He goes straight to the point. Being young, he is full of courage, but I find that he almost exaggerates frankness; this is why people call him brusque.

"President Roosevelt is sure to have a hearty welcome when he comes to lecture at Berlin University. He is the most popular man in Berlin and the rest of Germany. One would almost think that he was a great German statesman or genius, judging from the people's estimate of him. There will be great doings when Roosevelt comes to the capital. He is the greatest American that ever lived, ranking with Washington and Lincoln—at least, that is the German view of him. Mr. Taft is also much liked in Germany, although not as well known. Being the great friend of President Roosevelt, however, we know that he must be a fine man, and one who will make a great and good President."

It begins to look as if there is about to be established another great silver camp in the Ontario silver mining country, according to Hubert H. Grimes, a mining man of Ottawa, who is at the Raleigh. "I am of the opinion that this new camp will even rival that of Cobalt, in the Temiskaming country. This is the fascinating outlook that has been animating prospectors and investors during the last year. They see a second Cobalt coming, and they are bent on being on the ground when it comes.

"Day by day a sort of magic thrill has been growing about the phrase 'up the Montreal River.' Once it had a meaning and that was limited to lumbering and hunting; now it is principally associated with the idea of a new, perhaps a greater, Cobalt. The Montreal River is a long stretch; yet about sixty miles from Cobalt there are places on this river, or in its district, the names of which set men thinking of untold riches in silver and gold.

"During the last few months hundreds of prospectors have gone into this new country. Undaunted by a rigorous winter, they are still crowding the little river boats, and will continue to do so as long as they can run, after which these treasure seekers will be ready for snowshoes or the sleigh over the trail that will soon form on the snow or ice, all eagerly intent on getting a location—a piece of the wealth.

"Annexing Canada to the United States? My dear sir, that's a poor guess, if you pardon me. Canada will be the greatest, wealthiest, most powerful country on the face of the globe, and if there is any annexing to be done, you may take it from me that it won't be Canada which will be snapped up; quite the opposite may be near to the truth. Canadians are loyal to Canada, first, last, and all the time, and any one who has ever lived long enough among us will tell you so."

Praising the scenic beauties of Idaho, John R. Collins, of Boise, who is at the Ebbitt, said last night that the world was less familiar with the Snake River, in Idaho, than with any other river of importance in the United States, and yet it is our seventh largest river—more than 1,000 miles long.

"It is one of the most wonderful and impressive waterways in the world," said the Idaho cattleman. "The few who have tried to follow its winding course through wild and forbidding extents of lava plateaus do not wonder that so little is known of it, for no railroad tracks traverse the lifeless desert that borders it, and no boats, for hundreds of miles at a stretch, dare ply its waters.

"It is navigable for only one hundred miles from its junction with the Columbia to the Idaho boundary, and in several isolated sections of the interior. For the greater part of its course it flows through old and magnificent canyons of its own making, through desolate wastes, the result of vomiting craters and of convulsions of the earth.

"I would much rather talk to you on the natural beauties of Idaho than almost any other thing. I dislike to talk about the Japanese question. If I had my way there would be no Japanese in this country, but I don't want to force my views on the subject on anybody."