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If everybody should be as well pleased with the opinion and recommendations which the Schley Court of Inquiry has been ordered to hand in at the close of the inquiry, as they now profess to be with the personnel of the Court, it would be a beautiful ending of a more or less ugly and disagreeable matter. Of the personnel of the Court—Admiral Dewey and Rear Admirals Kimberly and Henham for judges, so to speak, and Capt. Lemly, who has been Judge Advocate of the Navy for nine years, for Judge Advocate—nothing but commendation could be spoken, not only because of the eminent careers of the officers, but because neither of them has ever been drawn into expressing an opinion of the Sampson-Schley controversy. Such men will form their opinions and make their recommendation solely on the evidence presented before the Court. The Court will meet September 12, and its sessions will be open. Opinion differs as much as to how long it will sit as to what the finding will be. Whatever it may be, no punishment can follow for anybody, as the naval regulations provide that no officer shall be punished who is not brought to trial within two years of the date of the alleged offense. Secretary Long has issued an order, which should have been issued long ago, forbidding officers of the Navy to publicly discuss and express opinion upon the Sampson-Schley matter.

NEW members of the House have for many years been astonished at and have sometimes viciously attacked the luxuries with which Senators have surrounded themselves, but when the improvements now under way on the House side of the Capitol are completed, as they will be before Congress meets, the members of the House will have as many luxuries at their disposal as Senators, so that such attacks will no longer be in order. The new ventilating system and fixtures connected with the Chamber of the House will probably be the most elaborate and costly ever put into a building—they include the very newest ideas in sanitary ventilation. In short, the Chamber of the House will be refitted from gallery to basement and will have the usual luxuries found in expensive clubs, which long ago played their part in getting the Senate called the "Millionaires' club."

DR. KOCH's claim that tuberculosis in animals cannot be communicated to human beings would be more consoling if it were not so vigorously opposed by other eminent scientists in all parts of the world.

SECRETARY LONG's order will put a stop to naval officers talking about the Sampson Schley mess, but it won't stop the rehashing of what officers said before the order was issued.

## DATE PALMS MAY SOLVE

### THE ARID LANDS PROBLEM

Department of Agriculture Will  
Make Experiments With Trees  
From the Nile Delta

THE date palm may solve the problem of what to do with the arid lands of Arizona, California and other western states, says the New York Sun. Experiments have been made in the past by the agricultural department and experiment stations, but renewed interest is being taken by the section of plant introduction of the department of agriculture, and Prof. D. G. Fairchild, agricultural explorer for the department, now traveling in Africa, has procured a number of suckers, or offshoots, from the delta of the Nile which he has shipped to the department and which will be distributed in the southwestern part of this country.

In the United States the date is an article of luxury, but in its native country it is a most important food, many regions in Arabia and the Sahara being uninhabitable but for the date palm. The United States annually imports nearly a million dollars' worth of dates, but it is possible, the department believes, to raise all the dates needed in this country. The date palm although grown profitably only in arid and semiarid regions, is not in the proper sense of the word a desert plant. It requires a fairly abundant, and, above all, a constant supply of water at the roots, and at the same time it delights in a perfectly dry and very hot climate. The date palm is able to stand much more cold than the orange tree, but not so much as a peach tree.

## NAFTZGER ON IRRIGATION

MR. A. H. NAFTZGER, who was called east the other day to testify before the Industrial Commission, as was to have been expected, did not fail to drive home a few facts in regard to the possibilities of the "Great West." On the subject of the arid lands and the possibility of their reclamation, Mr. Naftzger says:

"It has been carefully estimated that under a system of national irrigation seventy-five million to one hundred million acres of lands now practically desert and worthless could be reclaimed and made productive. It would be nearly or quite impossible to do this without government aid. If government aid be objected to on the ground that the development of these arid lands would bring them into productive competition with, and tend to decrease values of farming lands in the Eastern states, the answer is, first, that the development of any portion of our country is incidentally a benefit to all; but more specifically, if these desert lands should be watered, vast quantities of machinery, implements and other manufactured goods would have to come from Eastern states. This alone, I think would more than compensate for any, otherwise possible depreciation of Eastern farming lands, occasioned by increased Western competition. If the West shall have more water, the East will have more trade."

"But these Western lands would for the most part be devoted to a different class of products than those of the Eastern states, increasing interstate commerce and developing home markets in both directions."

"Again, who can say that these Western lands will not be needed for homes for the overflow of Eastern cities and towns. Under the rapidly developing economic and industrial conditions that now astonish the world, and particularly by reason of the in-

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## Imperial, Cal.

roduction of the 'community interest' idea, having for its ostensible object economy in both production and distribution, there is strong probability that many who are now wage earners must in the near future obtain their livelihood by cultivation of the soil. The government owns these arid lands, and it is certainly not unreasonable nor improvident that it should expend some of its revenues in making them irrigable."

## THE "OLD-FASHIONED BOY"

AN EASTERN newspaper, remarks the Los Angeles Herald, inquires: "Where is the old-fashioned boy—the boy who was his father's mainstay and his mother's 'little man' when the father was away from home?" The identical old-fashioned boy to whom that writer alludes is at present, probably, bald or gray and inclined to petulance. He may be, in fact, the pencil-pusher himself. He sees what is left of the old-fashioned boy of other days when he now glances at the mirror. And with the glasses that Time has ordered him to wear, he sees, through the long vista of years, a boy that is an ideal, but that never was a reality.

If the old-fashioned boy could appear today by the side of the boy of the period the two would pass for twins. There would be a difference in apparel but in all else they would be as much alike as two peas. The same restless activity, the same preference for play instead of work, the same propensity for mischief, fun and frolic, would characterize both of them. And when it comes to the test of "father's mainstay" and "mother's little man," the resemblance would be so perfect that,

as the wig-maker says, you couldn't tell "which is switch."

It is sheer nonsense—that idea that the American boy is degenerating. The difference that some old people think they see is an illusion, incident to long-range observation. In this case it is the observer, not the object, that has changed. His impaired vision enables him to see only the excellencies of old-fashioned boyhood, obscuring the foibles and imperfections. The average boy of today is a facsimile of his father and of his grandfather. He is probably no better, and he is certainly no worse.

A boy is naturally as prone to mischief "as the sparks to fly upward." He means no harm. His heart is usually as big as a football, and he will risk his neck to do a favor. His proneness to mischief is inherent. It is the ebullition of his surplus vitality. Fun and frolic are as necessary to him as milk to a kitten. But his sympathies are tender, his heart-strings are easily touched, and when you view him aright he passes the test quite as well as the old-fashioned boy as "father's mainstay" and "mother's little man."

THE distinguished officers comprising the Schley court of inquiry will do well to extract all the satisfaction possible out of the general press commendation of them, as they may find the tune materially changed after they have rendered an opinion and made recommendations.

There are more murders committed than are ever published in the papers—murders committed by the tongue. The power of deadly poison is in it.—August Ladies' Home Journal.