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American Policy Regarding Mexico Defined.

This Administration has only nineteen more days of life and of responsibility for the Government's policy with regard to Mexico. That policy, under President TAFT, has been definite and distinctly formulated. Perhaps there has been no better expression of it than was contained in one passage of an address by the present Secretary of State on March 6 of last year at Managua to the National Constitutional Assembly of Nicaragua. Secretary KNOX said, in reply to the Assembly's President, Dr. IGNACIO SUAREZ:

"I note, Mr. President, what you have said in regard to the existence of some apprehension here and in other republics of Latin America as to the true motives and purposes of the United States toward them under the Monroe Doctrine. I beg to assure you, and I am sure that what I say meets the approval of the people and President of the United States, that my Government does not covet an inch of territory south of the Rio Grande. The full measure and extent of our policy is to assist in the maintenance of republican institutions upon this hemisphere, and we are anxious that the experiment of a government of the people, for the people and by the people shall not fail in any republic on this continent. We have a well known policy as to causes that might threaten the existence of an American republic from beyond the sea. We are equally desirous that there shall be no failure to maintain a republican form of government from forces of disintegration originating from within; and so far as we may be able we will always be found willing to lend such assistance as may be within our power to preserve the stability of our sister American republics."

We wonder if it is possible for the next President of the United States to choose a Secretary of State who would desire or dare to depart very far from the spirit or letter of the policy here enunciated; the policy which the Taft Administration has to-day clearly in view in its energetic preparations for a possible contingency.

An Old Problem.

In his letter indorsing a plan for the creation of a police force to deal exclusively with gambling, the liquor traffic and prostitutes, Mayor GAYNOR writes:

"As I have said, this new force would be prey to such corruption. But the danger thereof would be minimized if the commissioner of the new force were given the power to appoint and dismiss at will."

Every Police Commissioner the town has had has longed for the power to "hire and fire." It is deliberately withheld from them because of the fear that armed with it the administration might oppress the men. The result is that the department consists of a temporary head and permanent subordinates. The head may be turned out of office by the Mayor or the Governor without reason, but none of the subordinates can be got rid of without proof of wrongdoing that will satisfy a court no injustice has been done.

Life tenure of men on the police force is one of the municipal institutions which, designed to prevent one evil, result in other grave abuses.

"Protection" a Myth.

A perfect system for the extortion of money from lawbreakers must include all the police and prosecuting officers and exercise such an influence over honest men as effectually to prevent attacks on its members and their patrons. In proportion as it lacks these elements it is ineffective and deficient. Despite the amazing reputation it has acquired, nothing could be plainer than the failure of the New York police "system" to approximate a state of perfection. Through the current inquiries which have pretty thoroughly exposed conditions in the town it has been proved conclusively that as a matter of fact the system did not deliver the goods for which it took pay.

Immunity from the enforcement of the law by individuals was furnished, but immunity from molestation by any department was never attained. The blackmailed rogue could be sure only that the persons to whom he paid his money would leave him alone for a time. That another person would not bring him to jail could be promised, but the performance of that promise was out of the question. The revelations on which the inquisitors now at work base their quests come from men and women who did not get the protection for which they paid. Their disappointment led them to betray their parasites, not as corrupt public officers, but as swindlers.

The "system" promised to "deliver" the Police Department and the District Attorney's office. It could do neither. It is actually nothing but a body of blackmailers, full of big promises, of which it could not make good the important ones. The system was a mighty force until it was subjected to close examination. Once under inspection it turned out to be a mere aggregation of criminals, fattening on false pretence and the gullibility of their victims, and desperately anxious to disprove once more that hoary old proverbial falsehood which tells us there is honor among thieves.

Untermyer-Pujo Finance.

When the Untermyer-Pujo sub-committee started business on Mr. SAMUEL UNTERMYER'S account it asked and obtained from the House an appropriation of $25,000 for the expenses of the investigation.

Apparently Mr. UNTERMYER fixed in advance the compensation he was to receive from the taxpayers of the United States for affording himself the opportunity to gratify his political and professional and personal curiosity about certain matters of business which his previous "activities"—the word is Mr. UNTERMYER'S—had touched in one manner or another. His fee was to have been $15,000. Mr. UNTERMYER'S $15,000 has not yet been paid; it forms part of a deficiency of about $35,000 in the finances of the Untermyer-Pujo subcommittee. As Mr. UNTERMYER cannot appear in person before the House of Representatives to plead for the supplementary appropriation needed to meet a total expenditure of about $60,000 and to pay him his fee, that somewhat unpleasant job has fallen upon the comparatively disinterested Mr. PUJO.

Representative MANN of Illinois had the cruelty to point out to the Money Trust hunters the fact that in incurring obligations (including Mr. UNTERMYER'S $15,000 fee) so largely in excess of their warrant they had committed an offence which in the case of executive instead of legislative officers would have been punishable by imprisonment.

Under ordinary circumstances this legislative scandal and little money trust, with the features of a dominating control, interlocking public and private interests and the flagrant manipulation and misuse of funds in the Treasury belonging to the people of the United States, should be the subject of a searching investigation by a special committee of the House assisted by able counsel—not Mr. UNTERMYER.

Where has the people's money really gone? How much of the $60,000 was spent in the hideous diversion of hunting and baiting almost to death a sick old man who happened to be also a very rich old man? Should this part of the expenditure properly be deducted from the Untermyer fee in settling with counsel, if, indeed, the cost of the inhuman persecution of Mr. ROCKEFELLER falls within the $15,000 figure? Was the subcommittee justified in contracting to pay Mr. UNTERMYER $15,000 for lending his "activities," or should it have charged him $15,000 or twice or thrice as much for the personal advantage he expected to accrue from the opportunity to figure in the proceedings?

A rigid audit and a mercilessly impartial inquiry seem never to have been more manifestly needed.

An Unknown Great Criminal.

Our esteemed contemporary *Beverages*, which the same are not those recommended by the Hon. NEAL DOW—this wet but sympathetic contemporary is now edited by Mr. EUGENE W. GEARY, a poet and ballad maker whose name is still familiar to readers of THE SUN. In spite of the example of the late Mr. RICHARD WATSON GILDER and many other editor-poets we beg leave to doubt the fitness of the breed, though nobody can admire it more than we do. A poet is a "maker." He creates or works over things to suit himself and his hearers or readers. Since the time of HOMER and the Homerids everybody has agreed to respect and honor this craftsman. But he shouldn't be an editor. Rather, he shouldn't try to be an editor. For making and fixing up are functions unrelated and essentially disparate. Of this everlasting disparateness the poet-editor of *Beverages* reminds us but too well.

Somewhere, somehow, sometime in the great scheme of mundane happiness the cocktail burst into bloom. Who knows when, by what divine artist created, how and whence this benison and malison of generations arose like Venus from the wine dark sea? Enough that the cocktail is and its survivors are strong. Borne like a seed around the world, it excites the curiosity of thousands. Colonnas and Orsinis put into their august inwards some faint foreign imitation of it. Heaven kissing Germans, terrible, conquering, peaceful, commercial, assimilative, are making their clubs of the Far East resonant with the "shake" in older days memorable in the New York Hotel, the scene of a great encounter between Lord SEYMOUR and TRACEY of Buffalo, and the site of the never enough to be regretted JUAN FERNANDEZ.

Those who appreciate its brilliant if fatal genius must admit that even if a cocktail is a mixed good, most cocktails in this world of haste and chemicals are a curse. The question of the origin of this draught of death is all that need stir the philosopher; and any philosopher must be stirred to read in the poet GEARY'S *Beverages* the ancient and artificial legend, many a time and oft exposed in THE SUN, of BETSEY FLANAGAN, taverness, of between Tarrytown and White Plains, in the Revolution:

"BETSEY was celebrated for a certain brand of drink she brewed for the American Continentals. She called it a bracer. On one particular evening she invited the American and French officers to a chicken supper. After the cookery of BETSEY had been sampled and praised by the patriots she invited them into a back room, where she had prepared a surprise for them. On the sideboard were lined up as many bracers as there were guests, and in each glass was placed a bunch of feathers from the tails of the gamecocks legitimately conated by the patriotic BETSEY from the barnyard of the Briton.

"Toasts were drunk to BETSEY'S patriotism, but it was left to a Frenchman to lift his bracer in one hand and the feathers in the other, and with a bow to BETSEY and the officers exclaim, 'Vive la Cocktail.'"

We were personally acquainted with BETSEY, to whom was dedicated the immortal ballad, "BIDDY [sic] O'FLANIGAN, fill up the can agin," the prototype of "Let us the canikin clink, clink, clink." But the cocktail was before and after her. It wasn't invented even by JERRY THOMAS. Its birth is hidden in the remoteness of the dark ages.

Who found the cocktail? What wet Copernicus, what Newton of the bar, thrust into the throats of mankind this perilous, this deadly, this unwholesome, this usually half made and crudely alligated certificate of short life? Radiant if short lived cocktail drinkers some of us may have known. The guilt, the crime, the crude destruction, the unholy defiance of life, health and chemistry inseparable from the cocktail have conspired to hide from the hate of mankind the cruel genius who invented it.

A Commissioner of Social Welfare.

A bill introduced by Assemblyman BOVIE provides for the appointment of a Commissioner of Social Welfare. This functionary, like so many professionals and amateurs of these generous and philanthropic days, is to study social conditions in country and city, to wander "about the State and confer with the people in meeting assembled at convenient centres as to the best ways and means of promoting the common good." He is to be a helper of cooperation among neighborhoods, an improver of "the well being of the community and individuals" and so on.

High if difficult purposes. But is social and individual improvement, neighborhood cooperation, the well being of communities, to be furthered notably by an itinerant missionary from Albany? Does "social welfare" depend on exterior stimulus? Are not the churches, the synagogues, schools, literature, the press, a thousand little voluntary associations of friends and neighbors and fellow workers, doing social welfare work all the time?

THE SUN wishes well to all legitimate activities of social betterment; to all necessary and fruitful public and official agencies for the same purpose; yet self-help is the indispensable and surest.

Nobody can guess how much to improve the well being of the community would be done by a Commissioner of Social Welfare. For the well being of one individual, the Commissioner, the State would pay a salary of $5,000 a year plus $3,000 travelling expenses. The multiplication of fat places seems a curious way of promoting social welfare.

The Street Fighting in the City of Mexico.

As bearing upon the question of intervention by the United States the conflict between General FELIX DIAZ and President MADERO for supremacy in the city of Mexico is not really as sinister as it seems at first sight. The precautionary measures taken by President TAFT for the despatch of warships to Vera Cruz, Tampico and Acapulco and for the movement of troops to the seaboard and to the Rio Grande are to be commended; in fact, not to make them would be pusillanimous and fatuous. It is well to give the Mexicans of all factions to understand that while the United States has no desire to interfere in their domestic affairs aggressions upon American citizens will not be tolerated and will provoke remedial action at any cost or hazard, prompt, vigorous and limited only by the resources of the Government at Washington.

With hostilities going on in the capital American citizens have probably been safer there than they would be in any other zone of rebellion. The issue has been a question of hours. Whether General FELIX DIAZ or President MADERO prevails order will be restored, and the first function of government, exercised with all the police power available, and it should be adequate, will be that of protecting foreigners. They have been obliged to keep off the streets, but so they must keep off the streets in any grave civil disturbance.

There has been nothing in the city of Mexico like the Madero-Diaz situation since General PORFIRIO DIAZ, in 1867, after capturing Puebla, besieged the capital, which he captured after a brief but brisk resistance. The American residents in those days, comparatively few in number, it is true, were in considerable danger, and for two years after the election of BENITO JUAREZ as President conditions were almost as unsatisfactory, for there were insurrections in the interests of PORFIRIO DIAZ and brigandage was rampant. But there was no intervention by the United States.

Despite SCOTT'S death, I think that his expedition, because of the scientific data he left with his body, will prove to be the most valuable in history. *Major-General A. W. GREELY, U. S. A., retired.*

Perhaps General GREELY was not correctly quoted. In Captain SCOTT'S expedition of sixty-five persons there were a good many scientific men, and several parties were sent out from the winter base in different directions to explore and to collect specimens. In the actual dash to the pole from the last depot camp not much could be learned that was not discovered by Lieutenant SHACKLETON, who was only 100 miles from success when reduced rations forced him to turn back. The presumption is that the scientific results of the well financed and admirably organized Scott expedition will be much more valuable than those reported by AMUNDSEN, whose polar quest was more of a sporting undertaking.

If Captain SCOTT had survived there would have been a splendid book by him, more attractive and informing than his "Voyage of the Discovery," which was one of the most satisfactory narratives of polar exploration ever published. A gifted writer as well as a gallant explorer was lost when SCOTT perished within eleven miles of his camp of supplies.

Unless this side [the Democratic side] of the House wakes up to a sense of its responsibility not only will the appropriations be grossly extravagant but they will amount to so much that talk of a revision of the tariff downward will be a hollow mockery.—*Representative FITZGERALD of New York.*

Probably Mr. FITZGERALD is wasting his breath. What is power to the restored Democrats unless they can use it? The Treasury is at their disposal so long as there is a dollar in it. As for tariff revision, has Mr. FITZGERALD forgotten that it is to be a tariff for revenue only, the revenue to meet the appropriations, which may be anything?

In North Africa at least 1912 was a boom year. Thus the trade of Algeria for that year reached $255,000,000, $19,000,000 more than the previous year, which was the high water mark. The special trade amounted to $225,000,000, of which the French share was $190,000,000, $112,000,000 representing French exports to the colony and $78,000,000 the imports therefrom. Algeria has now replaced the United States as France's fourth best customer. Tunis and Morocco included French trade, and with her North African colonies last year exceeded $250,000,000, at least $150,000,000 of which represented exports to Africa.

King's brother wounded.—*Cettinje despatch.*

Apparently the Montenegrins mean to have Scutari if it takes the whole royal family.

Now that the electoral vote has been counted there is no excuse for keeping the Hon. WILLIAM J. BRYAN in suspense another moment.

What of the fame of WASHINGTON when General ROSALIE JONES crosses the Delaware?

WILSON'S Cabinet practically picked.—*Headline.*

More practical politics?

THE BLOTTER TEST.

Motion Study Applied to the Office Worker.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Not being a faddist, and hence devoid of enthusiasm on the subject of "motion study," I keep several blotters among the litter of papers, pipes and whatnot on my desk, in hopes that one blotter may be around when I want to use it. This morning I happened on a blotter that looked strange, as strange as I look, for instance, when I bedeck my head with a new hat.

Has my breakfast gone wrong, I asked, or is that thing playing tricks with me? Then I made my first move in "efficiency engineering". I toured the office, gathered blotters from all desks and arranged them in five rows of five each. I studied them intently. The only ones that looked at all alike were those I recognized as my own. The others differed from mine in looks and from each other as peas differ from turnips and turnips from lobsters. A magnifying glass accentuated those differences.

Ha! said I, I have made a great discovery, and shall write THE SUN about it: blotters are no more alike than the people that use them. Every blotter reflects the characteristics of the person who uses it. Here then, thought I, is my chance to give a little impetus to the "efficiency movement." I'll collect blotters from all my friends, put those blotters under the microscope, classify them, and then write a paper on how to prevent distraction and abstraction by making all blotters look alike.

It thought I, all bricklayers can be made to lay bricks alike, "its a cinch to make all blotters reflect alike. Isn't a blotterer as amenable to discipline as a bricklayer?

NEW YORK, February 12. A. W.

Morals and Manners.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* All honor to THE SUN for the editorial article on "Morals and Manners." Men and women should remember that, after all, actions speak louder than words, and they should conduct themselves accordingly.

BROOKLYN, February 12. O. W. SMITH.

"Minxettes"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In a curious I sat opposite a product, and I might truthfully say an unconscious martyr, of the age. She was about 15, and in my young days would have been called a "sauceboxe." A more appropriate name now would be a "minxette." She looked for all the world like a "smart" woman seen through the wrong end of an opera glass, and had all the "swagger" of one who had been through a score of "seasons." Her clothes were a burlesque of the latest and most extravagant mode, and her imitation of her mother, who sat beside her, was so successful that she almost ran around me she was "grown up."

Her face was powdered, and her cheek seemed to be to avoid the imputation of childhood. From her conversation, carried on in loud nasal tones, one would have imagined her a woman of the world with long hair and short skirts. To say that she was an exception to the children of the age would not be correct. There are myriads of "minxettes" about. They are the result of their elders' passion for witless amusement and brainless life. The "minxette" is a nemesis, and one cannot find much fault with her when sitting on the next seat is a woman of some forty years who tries her best to emulate a schoolgirl.

The extremes meet and the materialism of the elder finds its culmination in the levity and self indulgence of the younger. In Lilliput there may have been fictitious "minxettes"; in New York they are blatantly real. NESTOR.

NEW YORK, February 11.

Before Steam Heat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* We may think it is cold in our modern steam heated flat with the steam turned off at 10 or 11 P. M., but let us think back, if we are not afraid of being frozen by the recollection, to a time when we had no steam at all, to a detached wooden house heated by stoves, and these on the ground floor only, no heat whatever in the bedrooms.

Many a time I have crept up stairs with my teeth chattering, to go to bed in a room as cold as an icebox. True, we had featherbeds and plenty of comfortables; we were warm enough after we got in, but my! that was a cold room. In the morning we used to find ice in the water pitcher. It was mighty cold water to wash in, and I am not ashamed to tell you now that on winter mornings in those days I spent a mighty short time in my ablutions.

We are inclined to kick now when they turn off the steam at 10 or 11 P. M.; but the fact is that by comparison we live now in a state of great all round luxury. NEW ENGLAND.

NEW YORK, February 12.

His Progress.

He practised long and hard
Before he learned to skate;
He couldn't curlycue,
Or properly gyrate,
And thus he had to cut
The figure VIII.

But when he got the knack
His skill and speed were great,
Upon the glassy field
He sought a pretty mate
And gracefully they cut
The figure 8.

He won the girl—no more
He tempts pneumonia's face
For when he last was seen
He sat before a plate
And it was evident
The figure ate.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

A Weather Philosopher.

Too much mist; much too clear!
Too much sun; much too drear!
Much too calm; too much blow!
Who can foretell such weather, or know?

Much too warm; much too chill!
Too much wind; much too still!
Too much rain; too much snow!
Yet we must bear it, whether or no!

Winter clothes—much too hot!
Drop them—frozen, like as not!
Too much change. Time will show
Whether we weather this weather or no!

GEORGE B. MORRWOOD.

RIVERSIDE DRIVE.

A Woman's Struggle to Prevent Its Destruction.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Riverside and the Washington Heights branches of the Woman's Municipal League are as a unit in their opposition to the plans for the increased use of the Hudson River waterfront by the New York Central Railroad. The tentative plans provide for three freight yards joined by two six track stretches, the two stretches to be covered.

As the six tracks must fan out for the freight yards there are really more than six tracks in the running distance, and though these are covered the greatest nuisances will remain uncovered. The New York Central does not want its freight yards covered, so it is asking for the land in fee or for a permanent easement, so the city shall have no overhead rights.

The Board of Estimate has absolute power in this matter. In its last report it proposes that the railroad shall have about all it wants, with many of the proposed changes to be made at the city's expense. The fact that New York's last asset in beauty will be ruined by this plan is not considered.

We are told that when the changes are finally made, at the end of five or seven years, Riverside Drive will be more beautiful than ever; but when we try to visualize the completed plans we cannot see grass, shrubs and trees in juxtaposition to freight yards, cattle yards, wharves, grain elevators, coal elevators and all the other accompaniments of commercial interests. One needs little imagination to see all the evils that must follow if the Board of Estimate permits this. We have only to think of the concrete coal bin erected at Ninety-sixth street, where control of the waterfront was not given to the Park Department.

Though neglected and already marred by the railroad, Riverside is celebrated all over the world. What an asset it might become if protected until New York can be developed as a whole. But unless this agreement can be prevented we must give up our fine plans of making it the dignified gateway for America, where distinguished guests may be received.

To say that New York's prosperity depends on having a railroad there is absurd. To say there is no other way is stupid. New York is all waterfront. Other cities with more shipping and less waterfront have solved their shipping problems without ruining the whole waterfront.

Trusting to the good faith of city officials, people have spent millions on their homes on the Drive. Is it good faith on the part of the city officers to give privileges to corporations that must of necessity ruin the upper West Side as a fine residence section? What excuse can they offer? All the explanations in the world do not alter the fact that if this plan goes through Riverside will cease to be a high class residence section. It will be commercialized. Once this is settled in its favor the railroad will have a clear title to all it asks or claims, and our hope of having it removed will be gone forever; and since we now know what a menace a railroad may become along the waterfront of a park and a fine residence section the Washington Heights and Riverside branches of the Woman's Municipal League are asking that once for all the tracks be sunk in a tunnel at the entire expense of the railroad or removed altogether from between Seventy-second street and Spuyten Duyvil.

MRS. CHARLES AUSTIN BRYAN,
Chairman Parks Committee, Riverside Branch.

NEW YORK, February 11.

LYING.

Honest Confession of One Who Profited by It in His Salad Days.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The best definition of a lie is not given by the dictionary. It is given by a boy, I believe, and runs as follows: "An abomination in the sight of the Lord but an ever present help in time of need," fortified by the saying "A lie well stuck to is as good as the truth."

When a boy of 15 I had occasion to deliver some goods at the home of Mr. Thomas Whiffen, an actor of the old Lyceum company, who lived upstairs in an apartment house at 425 Fourth avenue. There was no response to my ringing of the bell, so I just kept pulling that bell handle for dear life, getting a boy's enjoyment out of the exercise. Suddenly the door opened and a very angry Mr. Whiffen appeared and asked me what I had been doing to the bell handle. Quickly I denied all connection with the ringing of his bell, saying it must have been the butcher's boy who had just gone. Mr. Whiffen listened to my story, gave me a searching look, dug out a quarter which he handed over, saying he was sorry. I vacated at once.

Thus lying sometimes has its reward!

Since that episode I have always felt that George Washington did not "have anything on me" in respect of telling the truth, and I would have to be convinced that he would have acted differently under similar circumstances, cherry tree or no cherry tree.

A boy is a boy. Any sane person having choice of being either a liar or a fool will, to prove his sanity, prefer the former. That is the situation of the burglar summed up. If the lady had not lied to the burglar she would not have been a liar, simply a fool.

ANTI-CASUIST.

NEW YORK, February 12.

An Assassin's Quotation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the interesting article in THE SUNDAY SUN on Mr. Ferguson, the actor, he states that Booth, after shooting Mr. Lincoln, did not shout, "Sic semper tyrannis!" and cannot suggest any origin for this erroneous statement.

One of the witnesses at the trial of the conspirators to murder Mr. Lincoln was also named Ferguson. Mr. James P. Ferguson, who kept a restaurant next to Ford's Theatre, testified: "I saw the flash of the pistol right back in the box. As the person jumped over the box and lit on the stage I saw it was Booth. As he struck the stage he rose and exclaimed, 'Sic semper tyrannis!' and ran directly across the stage to the opposite door, where the actors come in."

BOSTON, February 12. C. E. S.

The Necessary Ignorance of Mere Man.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In THE SUN of February 8 is a paragraph headed: "Skirts to be six inches narrower at the ankles." The paragraph itself says: "Six inches narrower around the bottom."

Which is correct?

Many ladies will be interested in your explanation. HUSBAND OF ONE.

EAST ORANGE, N. J., February 12.

The Law Against Putting Circulars in Newspapers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* About the middle of last December, December 18, to be exact, Judge Foster in the Court of General Sessions ruled that any one who inserted in a newspaper a circular or other form of advertisement was guilty of a misdemeanor. It was said that Judge Foster's opinion was final and without chance for appeal. I never read or heard of the case being appealed.

Of course I was positive that Judge Foster's decision would banish from the Sunday papers the obnoxious inserts which some newsdealers were in the habit of placing in our papers, but last Sunday when I purchased a copy of THE SUN from a newsdealer in Audubon avenue I was surprised and indignant to find in the paper an insert advertising a laundry.

It takes all one's time to read the news and the legitimate advertisements in THE SUNDAY SUN without being afflicted with the cheap inserts, and I sincerely hope that the publishers are not going to permit unscrupulous newsdealers to fill up Sunday papers with a lot of trashy inserts. The public does not want them; they are a nuisance.

NEW YORK, February 11. A. D.

Particular About His Ashes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have high respect for the man who sprinkles ashes on an icy sidewalk, but I think the ashes should be sifted. H. F. HOBART.

NEW YORK, February 11.

CITY COLLEGE GRADUATES.

Seniors Pledge Themselves to Work for a Better Municipality.

Seventy-seven young men who were graduated from the City College of the City of New York yesterday as the February class of 1913 pledged themselves as follows:

"We, men of the class of February, 1913, to-day receiving the arms of the city as a symbol of her faith in us, take this oath of devotion to her.

"We will never bring disgrace to these arms by any act of dishonesty or cowardice. We will never desert our suffering comrades in the ranks. We will revere and obey the city's laws, do our best to incite alike respect and reverence in those about us. We will strive ever to do our whole duty as citizens, and thus in all these ways to transmit this city not only not less, but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

To each graduate Justice Victor J. Dowling presented a chevron bearing above the insignia of the city the torch of learning with the inscription "Urbus filius."

President Churchill of the Board of Education, Mrs. E. H. Harriman and Justice Dowling were among the guests of honor. The three highest in scholarship were Philip R. V. Curoe, who got the Pell gold medal for first rank in all studies, Samuel Davis and Max Lieberman.

President John H. Finley spoke of Mr. Churchill as a fine type of City College alumnus. Later Mr. Churchill told the graduates that the college was his foster mother, to whom he owed whatever had come to him. He said that Mrs. Grover Cleveland, now Mrs. Preston, might almost be called the patron saint of the college.

OLD GRADS DAY AT COLUMBIA.

Three Thousand in Alumni Conference and at Play.

Columbia University yesterday welcomed its 3,000 reunioning graduates, who kept things stirred up from early morning until well after midnight. In Earl Hall in the afternoon the alumni fought out the questions of the methods of electing alumni members of the board of trustees and the preservation of the alumni council.

John B. Pine, '77, a trustee of the university, declared that the alumni should be permitted to vote but that the ballot should be restricted. According to Mr. Pine, although Columbia has some fifteen or seventeen thousand living graduates, a great many of them have no interests at all in the university, and especially those who obtained their baccalaureate degree in other institutions and finished their professional work under Columbia instructors. It would work no injustice, said Mr. Pine, to deprive such persons of the right to vote for members of the governing board.

The alumni voted to preserve the privilege of the trustee ballot to only those alumni who were definitely interested in the university. The alumni council and the *Columbia Alumni News* will be continued.

Headed by the continental band of the early eighties and the upper eighties' buglers the army of graduates filed over to the gymnasium, where the classes from 1900 down to 1912 produced a series of "stunts." Then there was an organ recital in St. Paul's Chapel by R. G. S. Pigott, '06, and a beefsteak dinner in the commons. The Columbia varsity five played the Pennsylvania basketball team. A dance at which the alumni were guests of honor brought the day to an end.

TWO RIDES FOR A NICKEL.

School Children Favored in Bill to Be Reported.

ALBANY, Feb. 12.—The Senate and Assembly Railroad committees gave a joint hearing on the Jackson-Ramsperger full crew bill to-day, and the Assembly committee will meet to-morrow and report it favorably to the house.

At the same time it probably will report favorably on the Volk bill providing for two rides for five cents between the hours of 8 and 9 o'clock in the morning and 2:30 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon for school children in New York city.

The Railroad committees also gave a hearing on the Madden bill providing that no persons shall be allowed to act as motormen, conductors or drivers of street, surface or electric cars or trains unless they have had fifteen days instruction from a competent instructor in the city where the road is located. It is probable that this bill will be reported next week by the committees. It is aimed against strike breakers.

The up-State Public Service Commission has made an order requiring the New York Central to restore rates from Poughkeepsie and points as far south as Peekskill on the Harlem division and from White Plains to Pawling on the Harlem division which existed prior to the increase of 1910.

GETS WIRELESS STATION SITE.

Marconi Co. Will Receive Messages Near New Brunswick.

The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America has purchased 180 acres of the Reynolds farm, one mile from New Brunswick, N. J., on which will be constructed the company's receiving station for its transatlantic wireless system between England and America.

Thirteen masts, each 400 feet high, will be erected. The purchase price for the farm land was $40,000. The deeds will be executed to-day.

Ex-United States Attorney-General John W. Griggs, president of the company, said at his home in Paterson last night:

"We had expected to have our sending and our receiving stations at one place, but Mr. Marconi advised against it, saying that there would be greater efficiency if they were not together. We therefore will have the sending station near Belmar and the receiving station near New Brunswick."

A site for a station in Great Britain was obtained last week. It is not far from London.

DEADLOCK FOR U. S. SENATOR.

Lewis and Sherman Each Get 24 Votes in Illinois.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 12.—Col. James Hamilton Lewis, Lawrence Y. Sherman, Frank H. Funk and Barney Berlyn were placed in nomination for United States Senator to-day. The House and Senate balloted for both the long and the short term, but without result.

A deal may be fixed up over night. Reports are that Col. Lewis's friends are hoping to get help from the Progressives, but it will be a race with the Sherman managers to reach them first.

Lewis and Sherman each received twenty-four votes in the balloting to-day.

BATHTUB CASE NEAR END.

Fifteen Witnesses for Defence Tell of Favoring Agreement.

DETROIT, Feb. 12.—About fifteen witnesses for the defence in the bathtub trust case were heard before Judge Sessions in the United States Court to-day. They were all jobbers in plumbing supplies, and said that there was trouble in the trade in enamel iron ware.

The witnesses with one exception testified that they were glad to sign the agreement that forms the basis of the present prosecution because they believed it would improve conditions in the trade.

The defence expects to finish up its case to-morrow. Attorney-General Wickersham will not be called.

Clubmen Cook Dinner for Women.

The members of the Calvin Club of Christ Presbyterian Church, Bayonne, had their annual dinner in the lecture room of the church last night. The men prepared, cooked and served the menu and came in for praise from the women.

WILEY'S SUCCESSOR SAYS FIGHT GOES ON

Wants Public Aid in Stopping Traffic in Drugs and Quack Cure-Alls.

LAWS MUST BE IMPROVED

Dr. Alsberg Hopes Each State Will Pass Adequate Pure Food Acts.

Dr. Carl L. Alsberg, successor to Dr. Harvey W. Wiley as chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, made the first public statement of his policy at the Waldorf-Astoria last night before the National Association of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products.

Dr. Alsberg bespoke cooperation between the manufacturers, the public, the press and in one direction and between the States and the Federal Government in another, all designed for the control and regulation of the handling, sale and preparation of patent medicines, particularly narcotics, and breaking up of the indiscriminate sale of drugs like cocaine and opium and their derivatives.

Dr. Alsberg appeared with an olive branch, but made it plain that he also wore a sword. While he advocated cooperation he was as ready and willing to enforce all pure food and drug laws as anybody ever in charge of the bureau.

"In addressing an audience such as this," the chemistry chief said, "I feel that much that I would say to other branches of industry would be out of place here." Just previously he had said that he had been so short a time in charge of the work that his speech must be a declaration of principles rather than a history of accomplishment. He was in effect "kiting a check," with the hope that the checks would be amply covered in time.

To most branches of the food industry, for example, he was ready to say that the bureau hopes to cooperate with them in placing their processes upon a scientific basis, in eliminating waste and utilizing by-products to the best advantage. He did not mention what branches of the industry the bureau did not hope to cooperate with. His bureau hoped to do for the food men what other branches of the Department of Agriculture does for the farmer.

As a matter of fact the solution of many therapeutic problems has been worked out in the commercial field, he said. Private investigators have not the money that commerce can expend. He instanced the coal tar products and other discoveries in proof of this.

So far as pure food is concerned, Dr. Alsberg declared that a great step was taken when the bureau won the confidence of the public.

"We realize fully," he said, "that much remains to be done, but public confidence has been won and precedents have been established. No backward step will be taken."

"It is up to the separate States to make the pure food and drug problem simple. Conditions throughout the Union will be right only when each State passes and enforces adequate food laws and when these laws have been unified and harmonized with those of the Federal Government."

He hoped that consumers in every State would work to that end.

There was a different tale to tell when it came to drugs and medicines, the speaker declared. The fault had been in part with unenforceable parts of the law. The one great good accomplished had been by the cooperation of the Treasury Department and the Department of Agriculture, which had kept from the country injurious drugs and misbranded patent medicines. The Treasury Department had been able to exercise absolute power in this particular to the benefit of the ill who grasped at the cureall nostrums formerly sent in.

It is only when it comes to dealing with native manufacturers that the trouble arises, Dr. Alsberg said. The Shorley act will compel the removal of all false and fraudulent printing from the package and the removal of all false therapeutic claims. But that is only a partial remedy. It does not give the Agricultural Department power to regulate the advertising. Ingenuity will enable nostrum proprietors to find ways of hawking their wares.

Dr. Alsberg found a ray of hope in this situation, however. This was because a small and powerful part of the press is censoring its patent medicine advertising voluntarily. Manufacturers themselves are aiding in the work, and one large concern has recently announced that it will no longer deal in patent medicines. It has substituted non-secret preparations of recognized merit.

Even if the people are protected from quack medicine a great task remains, and that is to protect them from habit forming drugs, such as opium and cocaine. Dr. Alsberg said it has been pretty well established that only one-third of the cocaine brought into this country is used legitimately. The Harrison bill, now before Congress, shows one way in which this great sale can be curbed. That proposes to license all persons dealing with the drugs, and as the great bulk of both is imported every consignment can be noted, followed and controlled as it is distributed among the several States.

Dr. Alsberg interrupted his address at this time to say:

"Should this measure fail it is certain to result in far more drastic measures."

He said in conclusion: "I propose to use every lawful means of the Bureau of Chemistry to accomplish this end."

TO TAG NEW YORK GOODS.

Merchants Association Would Do So to Advertise the City.

The Merchants Association of New York is preparing to follow the lead of some other cities in affixing to goods made in this city the motto "From Greater New York." It thinks the advertising from such a motto would be great as nearly 10 per cent. of the manufactured products of the country are produced here.

The executive committee also suggests the use of the Statue of Liberty as an emblem to go with the motto if such use be legal.

The association has gathered statistic of manufactures here which show that New York is the largest industrial centre in the United States. In 1910 it had 25,938 manufacturing establishments, more than Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Cleveland had together. The value of the manufactured product of Brooklyn alone in that year was $417,220,000.