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The New York Herald was founded by James Gordon Bennett in 1835. It remained the sole property of its founder until his death, in 1872, when his son, also James Gordon Bennett, succeeded to the ownership of the paper, which continued in his hands until his death, in 1918. The Herald became the property of Frank A. Munsey, its present owner, in 1920.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1920.

The Great and Imminent Question of Cabinet Reform.

By various esteemed friends and readers The New York Herald has been asked recently to lend its voice in favor of the establishment of a Department of Transportation, with a Secretary of Transportation as an additional member of the President's Cabinet; the establishment of a Department of Aeronautics, with a Secretary of Aeronautics; the establishment of a Department of Fine Arts, with a Secretary in the Cabinet to run the æsthetics of the Federal Government; the erection of the present Bureau of Education into a full fledged Department of Public Education, with a Secretary of Public Education; and the formation of a new Executive Department to take charge of such governmental affairs and interests as specially concern the women voters of the Republic, with a woman representative in the President's Cabinet.

There may have been other proposals of a similar character which we do not at the moment recall. All this comes within a period of not many weeks; and the calls for the amplification of the President's council table to correspond with the stupendous expansion of Federal activities of all important kinds are so numerous, and it may be said with truth so natural, that we feel ourselves impelled to venture certain remarks of general application on the subject of Cabinet increase, in view of what the tendency forebodes to our Government's administrative framework.

I.

The habit of regarding the present Cabinet organization, meeting the President at the White House for conference, consultation and the discussion and arrangement of policies, as an integral part of the Government's machinery, has become fixed in the public mind. Comparatively few people remember, or stop to think, that no Cabinet is known to the Constitution, or, again, to the statutes enacted under constitutional authority. The body, in this sense, is extraconstitutional. In the same sense it is extralegal. It is the product of custom, convenience, probably of human necessity; but as an advisory Executive council holding stated sessions it is so far from being fundamental that it could be dropped from the system without even an act of Congress abolishing it. Such is the fact about its legal status, whatever we may believe as to its practical usefulness and indispensability.

So far, indeed, is it an extraneous growth that the word Cabinet does not occur in the Constitution. Nor is the word Secretary therein to be found, meaning the head of an Executive Department. Unlike the titles of the President, the Vice-President, the Judges, the Senators, the Representatives, the Ambassadors or Ministers, and even the Consuls of the United States, the Secretaryship of a Department, now involving by mere force of custom a membership in the Cabinet, is entirely a statutory creation.

The creating authority, the Congress, in establishing the Treasury Department, for example, could have styled its head Chief Commissioner of Finance. It could have designated a Law Chief instead of an Attorney-General to take charge of the Department of Justice. It could have entitled the officer known as Postmaster-General by the less grandiose name of Superintendent of the Mails. It could make these changes now, or any similar change of title or function, if its wisdom suggested a reason for so doing. The Congress, by legislation, could wipe out all the existing Departments and substitute others, on a rearranged scheme of distribution, precisely as from time to time it transfers this Bureau or this Commission or this Board from one Department to another for administrative convenience. It could combine two or more existing Departments into one, just as it separated the Department of Commerce and Labor into two Departments in 1913, a Department of Commerce and a Department of Labor, thus adding a new Secretary to the already sufficiently large number of Secretaries sitting according to custom but not by force of law at the President's Cabinet table in the White House.

Quite true it is that the framers of the Constitution foresaw the need of an orderly distribution of the functions of Executive authority. This practical and obvious need was recognized when they provided that the Congress might vest the appointment of inferior officers in "the heads of Departments." It was recognized again, and just as clearly, when they authorized the President to "require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the Executive Departments." Perhaps it is worth noting that Thomas Jefferson was disposed to interpret this clause so strictly as to hold that information as to the various branches of the Executive service could be acquired constitutionally by the President only in manuscript; not by oral communications across official mahogany.

But this recognition by the Constitution of the future need of differentiating the Executive Departments is very far from establishing a basis for the principle that because Congress creates new Departments the appointment of a Secretary or otherwise styled principal officer of a new Department requires the insertion of an extra leaf in the already too populous extension table of the President's Cabinet.

II.

The historical evolution of the Cabinet as we now know it illustrates the progress from efficiency as an advisory board to something which promises unwieldiness.

From 1789 to 1794, that is to say, during Washington's first term and part of his second term, there were only four Executive Departments. These were established by acts of Congress in the following order: Department of State, with a Secretary of State, July 27, 1789; War Department, with a Secretary of War, also charged with naval affairs, August 6, 1789; Treasury Department, with a Secretary of the Treasury, September 2, 1789; Department of Justice, with an Attorney-General, September 24, 1789.

On May 8, 1794, Congress established by law a Post Office Department, with a Postmaster-General as its head; and for the next four years what is now called the Cabinet consisted of five persons.

On April 30, 1798, naval administration was separated from military administration by the creation of a Navy Department with a Secretary of its own. For more than half a century thereafter the Cabinet was composed of six persons.

At the beginning of Zachary Taylor's brief term, in March, 1849, a Department of the Interior was established by Congress, with a Secretary of the Interior. The Cabinet grew to seven and held that number under Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan, Abraham Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur and Cleveland, during his first term. On February 11, 1889, the previously existing Department of Agriculture—so styled, be it noted, in the original legislation of May 15, 1862, although the act assigned to it merely a Commissioner and not a Secretary—was erected into an independent department with a Secretary in the Cabinet.

For just a hundred years, therefore, of the Nation's history, during the entire period of the development of what was originally but a category into a definitely organized and distinctly recognized, if extralegal, advisory board constituting an important part of an administrative system, the maximum membership of the President's Cabinet was seven. That number is not too small for the purposes of such a council. Perhaps a Cabinet of five would work better.

By the inclusion of the Secretary of Agriculture in 1889 and the comparatively recent addition of a Secretary of Commerce and a Secretary of Labor the Cabinet membership has already been carried up to ten; and ten certainly is overpopulation.

III.

The central fact to be kept in mind is the dual capacity of the Cabinet member.

He is in the first place, by constitutional appointment and confirmation, the administrative head of one of the Executive Departments. He would be such if there were no Cabinet.

In the second place, by a custom which has come to have all but the technical sanction of law, he is one of a select body of Executive assistants in a broad sense, a unit in a small advisory board accustomed to meet at regular intervals for discussion and exchange of views as to policy, a member of a sort of General Staff at White House headquarters, a counsellor holding intimate official and personal relations with the Chief Magistrate, not only with regard to matters in his special field but also as to matters in the special fields of his associates, a helper chosen by the President to share as far as possible the immense burden of care and responsibility that rests upon the American Executive.

It requires no argument to show that even extreme ability in the first of these two functions does not necessarily imply great usefulness in the second. A Department head of surpassing efficiency in his own province might turn out to be a mighty poor fit at the Presidential council table; and vice versa.

Everybody knows, accordingly, that in making up a Cabinet the qualities of availability and acceptability and congeniality in the advisory function are studied quite as closely and are quite as much the guides of choice by the appointing power as special fitness for the Department work.

The multiplication of Executive establishments for the supervision of Federal activities, whether the new institution is called a Department or a Bureau or a Commission or a Board, can proceed to any extent without the least impairment of the Cabinet's efficiency as a working board of counsel; that is, it can so proceed if the country and Congress adopt and accept the principle that the creation of a new Executive Department does not necessarily involve the addition of a new member to a Cabinet already as large as it ever ought to be, probably much larger than it ought to be.

Otherwise the event may be foreseen as surely as to-morrow's daylight. The enactment of the several proposals mentioned by way of example at the beginning of this article, with another Secretary in the Cabinet for each new Department, would itself bring up the Cabinet membership to a total of fifteen. Either already in sight or just beyond the horizon are at least as many actual or potential further demands for Executive representation, each properly insisting on its importance and necessity.

This is bound to be the case in the future. The tremendous growth of the country's resources and interests, the swiftly increasing complexity of Federal affairs, the certain appearance of new economic and material conditions requiring the erection of new governmental agencies render the result inevitable. Some of the claimant interests are not now predictable, any more than the need of a Department of Aeronautics could have been foretold by the most prescient statesmanship at the time when the business of the mails was committed to a Post Office Department. But, speedily or more tardily, the thing is coming to pass if present conventions of Cabinet appointment continue to be sacred; and the thing that is coming to pass is a reduction to absurdity. More exactly, it is the production of an absurdity.

Picture a Cabinet no longer consisting of six or eight carefully chosen advisers seated for intimate converse and conference around an ellipse of moderate focal distance, but a formal assembly or council as large as was the Senate in George Washington's time, arrayed at consecutive rows of individual desks facing the President in the chair and necessarily conducting business by the rules of parliamentary procedure, like a legislative body!

Let us imagine that stage of Cabinet evolution and we get a glimmering of the anomaly to which the Cabinet is surely tending; that is to say, a concern as devoid of practical usefulness as it is lacking in constitutional status as a part of our governmental mechanism.

IV.

We have tried to sketch the main consideration which now disinclines The New York Herald from becoming enthusiastic for the creation of new Departments provided the creation of each new Department involves an increase of Cabinet membership.

The alternative of course is obvious. It is to be found in a radical reclassification of the Departments represented in the Cabinet and a regrouping and reorganization, according to modern conditions, of the bureaus or commissions or boards which are or are to become subheads under the broader Department head. There would have to be a resolute rejection of some old fetiches. To illustrate, if under the new classification it should be deemed advisable to institute a Department of Transportation, represented in the Cabinet, it is conceivable that the present postal organization, vast and important as its business is, might logically be subordinated to Transportation in a new adjustment of relative values for Cabinet purposes. We are not here advocating such a change; merely suggesting the range of possible reconstruction in order to restrict the Cabinet to workable size. A further illustration is afforded by a circumstance referred to above. The Department of Agriculture, while actually created as a Department in 1862, was conducted for twenty-seven years before it gained a Secretary and a Cabinet place.

Any such reform of the present cumbersome, haphazard and unscientific system would require constructive work of the highest order. It would meet with angry resistance, perhaps, by official interests affected as to direct Cabinet representation. But it could be worked out in time by intelligent cooperation of the Executive and the Legislature. No matter how sweeping the change or how radical the reorganization, it is within the power of the Congress to do the job without constitutional amendment.

And the necessity of the reform, sooner or later, is indicated by common sense. It will have to come if the President's Cabinet is to remain a President's Cabinet.

Moving Plymouth Rock.

Plymouth Rock is to be moved again, for the fourth time in its history. The contract has been let for taking it back to its original position on the great granite base on the shore level, which is seven feet below the present site.

It was in 1774 that the Rock was first moved from its original site. On that occasion a twenty yoke team of oxen was hitched to the stone and it was hauled up to the Town Square of Plymouth to serve as a base for a flag pole. In 1823 occurred the second moving day, this time the stone being taken to Pilgrim Hall, where it remained until about forty years ago, when it had its third translation to the site known to the present generation. During this last moving the Rock was split into three pieces. These have been cemented together, a condition that will necessitate great care in its final journey back to the "point or place of beginning."

This is one of the tasks undertaken by the Pilgrim Tercentenary Commission, which also proposes to remove from the canopy of the Rock the supposed bones of some of the Pilgrims who died in the first year after the landing at Plymouth and to bury them on Coles Hill, the original burial ground where the bones of other Pilgrims who died in that first year also lie. The Tercentenary Commission has established Coles Hill as the permanent Pilgrim burial ground, thus disposing of the proposal to remove elsewhere the bones buried there.

With the contemplated transformation of the Plymouth waterfront into a park as a permanent Pilgrim memorial there should be an appropriate setting for Plymouth Rock. It is to be hoped that with its return to its original site it will carry with it all the traditions of that distinctive and remarkable New England spirit which has spread into every part of our land and into our insular possessions, to their spiritual and material benefit, a spirit which so long as it endures will make for the betterment of our country and of mankind.

Astounding Demands of the Government Spenders.

The armistice was signed about two years and a month ago, but the Government spenders of the American people's money act as if it is all news to them.

The department heads of the national Government, who are still living in the smoke and tumult of the war which is long past and still thinking in terms of billions, ask from Congress to cover army spendings in the new fiscal year $270,000,000 more than was appropriated for the present fiscal year. To cover navy spendings, exclusive of the building programme, they ask $175,000,000 more than was appropriated for this year. For the building programme they ask $80,000,000 more than was appropriated for this year.

On July 1, 1921, when the new fiscal year begins, we shall have had peace for the better part of three years, but the department plungers, who act as if they didn't know the war was over, want for all items of military expenditure a round billion and a half of dollars. This is $682,000,000 more than the $825,000,000 appropriated for the present fiscal year.

The Shipping Board wants $147,000,000 more. This, that and the other department want more. Altogether, with what they probably will want for deficiency and other payments overdue but not met, the Government spenders will ask about a billion dollars more than the appropriations for the present fiscal year.

What Congress needs to do with these military estimates, what Congress needs to do with other estimates by department heads of the national Government who don't yet know the war is over, is not to go at them with a knife or an axe but to run them through a sawmill.

Francis Lynde Stetson.

While Francis Lynde Stetson, who died on Sunday, was one of the ablest corporation lawyers this country has ever known, it would be unjust to the memory of this distinguished and useful citizen if at his passing his fame were assumed to rest entirely or even in major part upon his professional accomplishments and engagements. Mr. Stetson was too great intellectually, too courageous in his citizenship, too useful in his Americanism to be classified merely as a member of the bar of unusual scholarship, address, and erudition.

Mr. Stetson occupied a place in New York and the nation which only a man of vision, courage and imagination could have won and held. The letter of the law did not circumscribe his interest in the problems he was called upon to solve. The immediate question was always presented to his mind against an enlightening background of philosophic understanding. Effects interested him as deeply as processes; he was not one of those to whom an apparent advantage quickly achieved obscures remoter and secondary consequences. His trained curiosity and insatiable desire for knowledge prevented him from the easy acceptance of cut and dried opinions and led him to fruitful excursions in original investigations.

There are men who should not count the cost of any adventure, because if they do their courage will fail them and they will never move in any direction. It takes courage to start on a course which involves the possibility of ruin, no matter how worthy and how desirable the purpose to be attained may be. Mr. Stetson had this courage. He was one of those whom knowledge did indeed set free. And this knowledge and freedom were made manifest in his fearlessness in all the controversies in which his talents were employed. Nobody got from Francis Lynde Stetson advice that was not based on information, conviction and reason.

Mr. Stetson was one of the most valued, as he was one of the most intelligent, correspondents of this newspaper. His keen interest in all that went to the upbuilding and strengthening of American institutions impelled him to participate in the discussion of many important public matters in our columns. Whether he wrote over his own signature or over a pen name, his sound thinking, his originality, his sagacity and his disinterestedness gave value and prestige to his utterances.

Strong Arm State Treatment for Local Building Graft.

It may come as a thunder clap in the ears of New York city, which has struggled so long and so hard for more, not less, home rule, that the State Government is going to take strong arm charge of our desperate housing and building situation. But it is incredible that the local stupidity, incompetence and immorality responsible for the evil which has befallen New York can cure it. It is unthinkable that the frightful mess should be left in the state it is in.

Furthermore, the imperatively needed cleanup work is vastly greater than the general public realizes. It calls for more activity, more jurisdiction and more power than any Legislature in its senses would be willing to give to local hands which have so shockingly and disastrously failed in what they had to do.

The trouble, in truth, is not merely that building combinations have become bandits preying both upon the private purse and the public treasury and that labor union bosses have become vultures. Along with these crimes there are the resultant evils of inordinate taxes, scarcity of mortgage funds, prohibitive interest rates—interest rates imposed upon a crushing bonus exacted from the borrower—underwriters' abuses, all kinds of faults and wrongs to terrorize investors and mulct rent payers. The troubles are so many and so great as to make a heroic disease for which is required heroic treatment.

How far the State Government can go and how much it can do with this huge task only actual experience will tell. But it is only the State Government which can be counted upon to make more funds available for building whether by inducement or by pressure. It is only the State Government which can curb if not repress the methods of the underwriters who demand and compel with their rules and requirements change upon change during and after construction until no owner of a property can know where they are going to stop or when, if they have stopped, they are going to begin again. It is only the State Government which can accurately trace the cost of a brick, from the making in the brick yard to the laying in the building. It can, in truth, make brick and ship brick as a test of what the cost is. It is only the State Government which can thoroughly uncover all the rottenness that must be uncovered and break up the criminal building rings and drive out the union labor crooks.

Not only a central and great authority but a single handed power must grapple with this problem. A multiple commission will never do the work that one man, equipped with the necessary ability and armed with the fullest possible power, can do. He needs to be drafted, to be commandeered, from the best and the strongest timber in the State. He needs to direct all the action and to shoulder all the responsibility. He needs to be chosen by the Governor and to be accountable to the Governor. He needs the force of discipline over his subordinates to get quick action and right results.

A one man commission, backed to the limit by the State Government, is the only thing to meet this crucial situation.

A Dublin despatch says that in Macroom a man must keep his hands out of his pockets or be shot. Over here at this season a man who refuses to put his hand in his pocket meets with killing looks from his family.

Use of seven vessels belonging to the United States Shipping Board now tied up near here was requested to-day from the Shipping Board to alleviate housing conditions in the city. The vessels are not being utilized and could be used to advantage by the city as floating temporary apartment structures.—*News from Martinez, California.*

This is a solution of the housing problem which enlisted the attention of John Arbuckle in this city years ago. His floating hotels in the East River were popular with the lucky few who could get quarters on them, and their tenants, wholesome and lively young women and young men, found romance by the waterside. Martinez will be fortunate if this help to housing her people can be worked.

Minnesota bandits wore masks while robbing a mail train. Unlike their New York contemporaries, these old fashioned Westerners still seem to think there is some danger of being caught.

Build a Booth!

As citizens of Flatbush propose to do to house the neighborhood policeman.

If you'd like to keep a copper,
Build a booth!
If on crime you'd put a stopper,
Build a booth!
On the job and ever ready,
With the crooks he'll play old Ned, he
Will stick 'round sedate and steady
In his booth.

As a remedy intensive,
Build a booth!
It won't prove at all expensive
For a booth
If 8,000 join their purses;
Couch and draperies and nurses
Will combine to end crime's curses—
Buy a booth!

Should a burglar start to burgle,
'Phone the booth!
If you're stuck up, merely gurgle
To your booth.
Should you entertain pickpockets,
Losing wallets, wads or lockets
With astonishment and shock, it's
"Central! Booth!"

Every street will very shortly
Own a booth;
And your cop, precise and portly,
From his booth
Will protect you. Naught can hurt you.
If you're crooked he'll convert you,
And we'll all lead lives of virtue—
Bless the booth!

MAURICE MORRIS.

PERFECT IN ONE TONGUE.

A Linguist Makes Errors in Fifteen Languages, but Not in Esperanto.

To The New York Herald: I myself can understand sixteen languages, of which I can speak well only eight, but even in these I am quick at making mistakes, not even excluding my mother tongue. Only one language I speak in common with your correspondent "Polyglot," in which I cannot make a mistake, whether in speaking or writing.

I hope Mr. Polyglot will agree with me that both of us can never make a mistake in the universal language called Esperanto. The simple reason for this lies in the ingenuity of the author of Esperanto, Dr. L. L. Zamenhof, who based the entire grammar on sixteen rules, allowing no exceptions, therefore no irregularities. It is just the irregular verb in the different languages which makes it so difficult to learn a foreign language.

Knowing for thirty years Italian and German, for twenty-five French and for twelve English did not help me to become perfect in these national languages, and I give up all hope to be ever perfect in them. Born as a Southern Slav, it was easy for me to acquire an understanding in the ten Slavonic languages in existence.

Esperanto is the best aid to the study of foreign languages, and therefore every American should try to learn first Esperanto, and then by the help of Esperantists belonging to the language which he desires to acquire he can learn much quicker the desired foreign language, because Esperanto is the centre of all languages and the sixteen rules are the embodiment of each grammar in any language. D. MARKANOVICH KLAJIN.

NEW YORK, December 6.

MR. WILSON AND ARMENIA.

The President's Ability to Act in His Personal Capacity.

To The New York Herald: How can the President act in his personal capacity in any case? You speak in an editorial article of his doing so in connection with Armenia. Of course, if the President acts, he acts as President of the United States and morally binds us as a nation, and indirectly lugs us into the League of Nations.

Let people not delude themselves. The White House didn't hear the avalanche on November 2—nothing has happened to disturb that dovecote.

A STUDENT OF HISTORY.

NEW YORK, December 6.

AMERICA'S PENSIONERS.

Seventy-one Widows of the Soldiers of 1812 Still Survive.

From the annual report of the Secretary of the Interior.

There were on the pension roll at the end of the fiscal year 592,190 names, a net loss of 32,237 from the total of 624,427 on the roll at the beginning of the year.

The number of civil war soldiers on the roll June 30, 1919, was 271,391, and on June 30, 1920, 243,520, showing a decrease of 27,871. The number of deaths of civil war soldiers in 1920 was 27,871, as against 27,703 in 1919.

The number of civil war widows on the roll June 30, 1919, was 293,244, and on June 30, 1920, 290,100, showing a decrease of 3,144.

The deaths of widows, minor children and dependents in 1920 numbered 21,752, as against 20,089 in 1919.

The highest number of civil war soldiers on the roll was in 1898, when there were 745,822. The highest number of civil war widows on the roll was in 1912, when there were 304,373.

Of the war of 1812 there were surviving on June 30, 1920, 71 widows.

Of the war with Mexico there were on the roll June 30, 1920, 148 survivors and 2,423 widows.

Of the war with Spain the total number of original claims allowed by the bureau is 41,427. The number on the roll June 30, 1920, by reason of the war with Spain is 30,432.

James T. Powers in "Erminie."

To The New York Herald: Francis Wilson is referred to in your paper as the only eminent comedian who essayed the rôle of *Cadeaux* in "Erminie" here.

What about James T. Powers?

He is an eminent comedian, and he played the rôle at the Casino Theatre in New York, following Francis Wilson.

One who ever had the good fortune to see Jimmy Powers in the part could never forget his humorous rendition of the role of *Caddy*.

FRANK S. UPTON.

NEW YORK, December 6.

A Rock With Many Religious Associations.

From the Zanzibar Gazette.

A report on the Dome of the Rock of Jerusalem is shortly to be published and will be of great interest to the Mohammedan world. It may not be generally known that this place is the third in sanctity of all the sanctuaries of Islam, and indeed for a short period it actually formed the Kibla toward which all Moslems prostrated themselves in prayer. Among the more important religious associations of this rock we may mention that it was here that David and Solomon were called to repentance, and on account of a vision David chose this site for his temple. From this same spot Mohammed ascended to the Seventh Heaven after his night journey from Mecca, and lastly it is to be the scene of the Great Judgment. The historical associations are not less striking, and such famous names as Omar, Abd-el-Malek, Saladin and Suleiman are all connected with the rock.

Official Relaxation in Kansas.

From the Topeka Capital.

Wilbur Stanfield, water commissioner, and Fred Painter, superintendent of the water works, are great horseshoe enthusiasts. And they are always "armed." In the automobile used by the two bosses of Topeka's water system there always is a complete horseshoe pitching outfit, including shoes. The horseshoes were made specially for playing. If Stanfield and Painter have a little spare time or are in need of exercise they stop and have a game. If they meet two men who think they are experts Stanfield and Painter forget their usual rivalry, take off their coats and show the "cocky" ones how to throw ringers.

A Canadian Cheering Up Party.

Port Arthur correspondence Detroit Free Press.

Obtaining entrance to the City Hall on pretence that they had come as visitors to cheer up the inmates, two ex-convicts pulled off a snappy robbery Sunday. While the warden was conducting one of them to the prisoner who was to be "cheered," the other opened the private locker of the jailer, pried the lock of the money drawer with a jimmy and took $160 in cash and a loaded revolver. The robbery was not discovered for several hours after the men left.

The Early Birds.

Observe their smiles so smug and bright,
When summer days were pleasant
He filled the bin with anthracite,
She made the Christmas present.

COLUMBUS'S VOYAGES.

Arguments to Show That He Discovered America Before 1492.

To The New York Herald: Your interesting article of November 28 on Professor Steensby's location of Karlsefni's route from Greenland to the St Lawrence River, about A. D. 900, indicates that the professor's evidences began with the two inscribed tombstones on the island of Kingiktorsoak, in Baffin's Bay, discovered 1824, a full description of which, with latitude and longitude, appears in my "Ancient Britain," page 25. Thence Karlsefni's route must have been southwest through the Eskimo country to the St. Lawrence.

As the Eskimos do not appear to have occupied the Atlantic seacoast until a later period, these people seem to have been pushing from west to east, while the Northmen were exploring westward; a circumstance which suggests that Professor Steensby's evidences would consist in part of exchanges of commodities or language between the explorers and the natives. Evidences of both of these kinds have been detected and published by Stefansson and others.

When Columbus visited Iceland in 1477 the evidences recently discovered by Steensby must have been known, and much more recently and freshly known in Iceland; and it is inconceivable that being then within two or three days sail of the Eskimos, now settled on the coast, this prince of navigators failed to visit them during the two years which he is believed to have spent on the North American coast.

He certainly visited Nova Scotia, for he mentions its extraordinary and peculiar tides of twenty-six arms lengths—translated "fathoms"—while Beazly ("Prince Henry," page 16) evoked a suggestion that in following the Vikings Columbus may have explored Long Island Sound, from Leif's Booths to Manato (New York) in the hope of finding a western strait to the Zipangu and Cathay of Marco Polo.

ALEXANDER DEL MAR,
Ex-Director Commerce, Navigation and Statistics, United States Treasury.

NEW YORK, December 6.

OLD BLAST FURNACES.

An Orange County Relic Which Is Well Worth a Visit.

To The New York Herald: In regard to your account of the last of the old blast furnaces in Tennessee it may interest some of your readers to know that in New York and New Jersey, almost within our metropolitan district, there still remain some of these old time relics.

One of the best preserved is at Queensboro, Orange county, only forty-five miles up the Hudson, and two miles back from the inn at Bear Mountain. As a tablet on the structure indicates, it was built before the Revolution and was standing when "in October, 1777, a British detachment of 900 men, on their way from Stony Point to attack Fort Montgomery, forded Popolopen Creek at this furnace."

This old structure of cyclopean masonry was so well put together that it could be used to-day.

About two miles west of the furnace is the iron mine of the Fort Montgomery Iron Company, which supplied the ore used, and which has been worked for nearly 150 years and is still working. Both mine and furnace will repay a visit.

WILLIAM H. COUGHLIN.

BROOKLYN, December 6.

THE HINDENBURG LINE.

It Was Long Enough to Let Many Yankees Have a Whack at It.

To The New York Herald: How either the Twenty-seventh or the Thirtieth Division can claim sole credit for the breaking of the Hindenburg line, when in reality they went through only a small part of it is something I have long been trying to understand.

The Hindenburg line was not merely the small strip of German defences located in northern France, but it was the name applied by the Germans to their main line of defence that extended from the North Sea to Switzerland.

Every American division that took part in the first two phases of the Meuse-Argonne offensive and several of those that took part in the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient "broke the Hindenburg line." German maps of the Verdun sector bore the names of the Hindenburg, Kriemhilde-Stellung and Volker-Stellung lines.

American divisions broke through these positions on September 26 and 27 as they did at St. Mihiel two weeks before. The Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth divisions got through the line on September 30.

The Southern Congressman may have to buck the arguments of several other divisions besides the Twenty-seventh if he ever gets things fairly started.

JULIAN H. SALOMON,
Vice-Commander, Lorraine Cross Post.

BROOKLYN, December 6.

Necessity Knows No Law.

From the Macon Chronicle-Herald.

Some very good friends brought the head writer to task recently for using the word "gallows" as plural. One only learns from his friends. The truth is the next word had to consist of three letters to fill out the line properly. "Are" was just right. "Is" wouldn't do at all. So the head writer hunted up the dictionary and it said the plural of gallows was gallowses. Then it went a little farther and said the archaic or antiquated plural was gallows. The emergency made it necessary to lug the archaic form in by the ears and hitch it to the line up.

Remarkable Perception of an Iowa Motorist.

From the Denison Bulletin.

Attorney W. E. Kahler had an accident Tuesday which might have resulted in a smashed Ford and possibly some broken bones. Mr. Kahler was returning from Beloit when suddenly a front wheel of the car came off. Fortunately he discovered something wrong and retarded his speed.

An Appreciative Arkansan.

Cove correspondence Mena Star.

Died, at Old Cove, last Sunday night, Old Beck, E. A. Little's mule, 30 years old. Mr. Little tells us that this old mule made him what he has to-day.

Personal Bewilderment.

From the Washington Star.

"Are you sure your auditors understood all of your arguments?"

"If they did," answered Senator Sorghum, "I wish they'd come around and explain some of 'em to me."

The Hopeful Arkansas Correspondent.

Bethlehem correspondence Clarksville (Ark.) Herald-Democrat.

News seems to be scarce. We are unable to report any weddings, separations, fights or elopements; however, we hope to do better in the future.

Daily Calendar

THE WEATHER.

For Eastern New York—Cloudy to-day; to-morrow probably rain or snow; not much change in temperature; fresh northwest shifting to northeast winds.

For New Jersey—Cloudy to-day, followed by rain by afternoon or night; to-morrow rain; not much change in temperature.

For Northern New England—Cloudy and slightly colder to-day; unsettled to-morrow, probably snow.

For Southern New England—Cloudy to-day; to-morrow probably rain or snow; not much change in temperature.

For Western New York—Cloudy to-day and to-morrow, probably snow to-morrow; not much change in temperature.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The northeastern storm was central to-night over the Canadian Maritime Provinces. It has been attended by snow or rain within the last twenty-four hours in New England and New York and by gales along the north Atlantic coast. Another disturbance that was central over eastern Texas was attended by rain in the Gulf States and rain and snow in Kansas, Oklahoma and northwestern Texas. A third disturbance had its centre off the central California coast and a fourth off the northern Pacific coast, and rain fell along the Pacific coast from San Francisco northward.

The temperature was somewhat lower in the northeastern States, the plains States and the central Rocky Mountain region, and readings were near normal to-night over much of the country east of the Rocky Mountains.

The outlook is for rain in middle and southern sections east of the Mississippi River to-morrow and to-morrow night, and rain Wednesday in the middle Atlantic States and snow or rain in the north Atlantic States, the lower lake region and the upper Ohio Valley. The temperature will be lower in the Southern States Wednesday.

Observations at United States Weather Bureau stations, taken at 8 P. M. yesterday, seventy-fifth meridian time:

Stations.	Temperature last 24 hrs. High.	Low.	Barometer.	Rainfall last 24 hrs.	Weather.
Albany	38	32	29.58	...	Cloudy
Atlantic City	46	44	29.96	...	Cloudy
Baltimore	48	42	30.02	...	Clear
Bismarck	38	22	30.54	...	Clear
Boston	42	40	29.74	...	Cloudy
Buffalo	36	34	30.06	...	Cloudy
Cincinnati	44	30	30.24	...	Cloudy
Charleston	62	48	30.06	...	Cloudy
Chicago	40	32	30.24	...	Cloudy
Cleveland	38	36	30.16	...	Cloudy
Denver	32	28	30.46	.01	Cloudy
Detroit	44	36	30.18	...	Clear
Galveston	66	60	29.88	.06	Clear
Helena	32	20	30.16	...	Cloudy
Jacksonville	68	50	30.08	...	Clear
Kansas City	44	38	30.24	...	Cloudy
Los Angeles	72	50	30.04	...	Pt. Cl'dy
Milwaukee	44	30	30.26	...	Pt. Cl'dy
New Orleans	58	54	29.86	1.68	Cloudy
Oklahoma	44	42	30.04	.36	Rain
Philadelphia	46	44	29.96	...	Cloudy
Pittsburg	38	36	30.18	...	Cloudy
Portland, Me.	44	38	29.68	...	Cloudy
Portland, Ore.	44	42	29.92	.14	Rain
Salt Lake City	32	26	30.24	...	Clear
San Antonio	68	58	29.98	...	Clear
San Diego	66	48	30.04	...	Pt. Cl'dy
San Francisco	56	46	29.84	.04	Rain
Seattle	48	44	29.88	...	Rain
St. Louis	40	36	30.20	...	Cloudy
St. Paul	38	27	30.42	...	Clear
Washington	46	40	30.04	...	Clear

LOCAL WEATHER RECORD.

	8 A. M.	8 P. M.
Barometer	29.73	29.86
Humidity	.58	.75
Wind—direction	W.	N. W.
Wind—velocity	28	30
Weather	Cloudy	Cloudy
Precipitation	None	Tr.

The temperature in this city yesterday, as recorded by the official thermometer, is shown in the annexed table:

8 A. M.	44	1 P. M.	45	6 P. M.	41
9 A. M.	44	2 P. M.	44	7 P. M.	41
10 A. M.	44	3 P. M.	44	8 P. M.	41
11 A. M.	44	4 P. M.	43	9 P. M.	41
12 M.	46	5 P. M.	41	10 P. M.	40

	1920.	1919.		1920.	1919.
9 A. M.	44	33	6 P. M.	41	36
12 M.	46	34	9 P. M.	41	40
3 P. M.	44	37	12 Mid.	40	43

Highest temperature, 46, at 12:10 P. M.
Lowest temperature, 40, at 7:40 P. M.
Average temperature, 43.

EVENTS TO-DAY.

Grover A. Whalen, Commissioner of Plant and Structures, will speak at a meeting of the Merchant Truckmen's Bureau in the assembly room of the Merchants' Association, Woolworth Building, 8 P. M.

New York Chapter, Military Order of the World War, meeting, Hotel Astor, 8 P. M.

Senator George W. Cartwright will speak on "The World's Greatest Blunder" at the dinner of the Rotary Club in the Hotel McAlpin, 6:15 P. M.

Dr. Henry De Man will speak on "The Future of Industrial Europe" at Cooper Union, 8 P. M.

The Association of Life Insurance Counsel, annual meeting, Bar Association Building, 42 West Forty-fourth street, 2 P. M.

Dr. Gilbert Reid will speak at the public forum in Broadway Tabernacle, Broadway and Fifty-sixth street, 8:15 P. M.

305th Infantry Post, American Legion, meeting, Seventy-seventh Division Club, 27 West Twenty-fifth street, 8 P. M.

Laurette Taylor will participate in the benefit entertainment for the Church of St. Jean Baptiste in the parish hall, Lexington avenue and Seventy-sixth street, this evening.

American Society of Mechanical Engineers, forty-first annual meeting, Engineering Societies Building, 29 West Thirty-ninth street, beginning 10 A. M.

There will be a public conference on the immigration question in Broadway Tabernacle, Broadway and Fifty-sixth street, this afternoon and evening.

People's Singing Class, rehearsal, Public School 59, Fifty-seventh street, between Second and Third avenues, 8 P. M.

Prof. Leon Duguit will lecture on "The Political and Social Institutions of France Since 1789" at Columbia University, 5:10 P. M.

The men's work committee of the Presbyterial General Assembly will hold a meeting and rally in the Hotel Pennsylvania, beginning with a luncheon at 12:30 P. M.

Mrs. Douglas Robinson will speak on "Theodore Roosevelt, Citizen," before the Women's League of Flatbush Congregational Church, Dorchester Road and East Eighteenth street, 2:30 P. M.

The American Society of Refrigerating Engineers, meetings, Hotel Astor, forenoon and afternoon; dinner, 7 P. M.

There will be a dinner in honor of Congressman-elect Meyer London at Beethoven Hall, 10 Fifth street, this evening.

Dhan Gopal Mukerji will speak on "The Ideal of Freedom" before the League for Political Education at the Park Theatre, 11 A. M.

New York Academy of Medicine, section of dermatology, meeting, 17 West Forty-third street, 8:15 P. M.

The Knickerbocker Civic League will give a congratulatory dinner to State Senator-elect Nathan Straus, Jr., Hotel Majestic, 7 P. M.

National Association of Brass Manufacturers, meeting, Hotel Astor, 10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

Grand Street Boys, meeting, Hotel Pennsylvania, 8 P. M.

PUBLIC LECTURES TO-NIGHT.

MANHATTAN AND THE BRONX.

"Trend of the Times," by Prof. William B. Guthrie, at Wadleigh High School, 115th street, near Seventh avenue.

"Oxides of Nitrogen and Nitrogen Iodide," by W. L. Estabrooke, at Stuyvesant High School, Fifteenth street and First avenue.

"California and the Pacific Coast," by Robert G. Weyh, at Public School 66, Eighty-eighth street and First avenue.

"Ukraine and the Ukrainians," by Milton Wright, at Public School 132, 182d street and Wadsworth avenue.

Mrs. Jeanne R. Foster will read from her own poems, stories and verse of the Adirondacks at American Museum of Natural History, Seventy-seventh street and Central Park West.

"The Miracle of Irrigation," by Lewis A. Beardsley, at Metropolitan Temple, Seventh avenue and Fourteenth street. Illustrated.

"Some American Composers and Poets," by Miss Sally Hamlin, at Public School 53, 168th street, Findlay and Teller avenues, The Bronx.

"Quebec and the Maritime Provinces," by Frederick W. Johnson, at Public School 59, 207th street and Hull avenue, The Bronx. Illustrated.

"Theodore Roosevelt, the American," by Lawrence F. Abbott, at St. Anselm's Hall, Tinton avenue, near 155th street, The Bronx.

BROOKLYN AND QUEENS.

"Trend of the Times," by Miss Jennie M. Davis, at Bay Ridge High School, Fourth avenue and Sixty-seventh street.

"The Growth of American Music in the Last Fifty Years," by Miss Marie P. Gainsborg, at Girls' High School, Nostrand avenue, Halsey and Macon streets.

"Puerto Rico, Old and New," by Frederic Dean, at Public School 30, Conover and Wolcott streets.

"The Great Pyramid and Sphinx," by B. Dow Covington, at Public School 174, Dumont, Alabama and Williams avenues. Illustrated.

"The Book o' the Hour," by Prof. J. T. Carter Troop, Ph. D., at Brooklyn Public Library, Pacific street and Fourth avenue.

"Who Won the War," by Dr. Harry W. Farrington, at Newtown High School, Chicago and Gerry avenues, Elmhurst, L. I.

"Consumers Cooperative Associations as an Aid to Reduce the High Cost of Living," by Walter P. Long, at Public School 94, old House Landing road, Little Neck, L. I. Illustrated.

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