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TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1913.

The Easter hat has already lost its novelty.

The Easter gown is still waiting its real chance.

Diplomacy apparently is no job for a poor man.

Europe needs inoculation with the peace serum.

The East should put up a storm door to the West.

Simplified spelling should be a boon for the rough-writers.

Baltimore must make the 1914 celebration a big success.

Now that Wilson is away the Jersey politicians will play.

Looks like the next European war will be fought in the air.

A good feature of the new Democracy, is its liking for publicity.

Spring's opening record is certainly an ugly one, especially in the West.

Fortunately Baltimore is never in the track of the death-dealing tornado.

Failure of the natural ice crop is no longer a good reason for an ice famine.

There is no disguising the fact that the new spring hat is militant to a highly aggressive degree.

It remains to be seen whether tariff revision or the baseball season will prove more trying for business.

That spring is here will be doubted until the railways company officially authenticates it by running open cars.

Perhaps the aviator who flew over New York city by night would make a good witness for the vice crusaders.

The Paris police now fire gas bombs at dangerous fugitives. They purpose by doing so to make the capture a light one.

The Panama Canal will prove advantageous for only such such cities as prepare to make it such. Baltimore must be one of them.

The way in which important positions in the new administration are being refused must look simply ghastly to the professional place-hunter.

What's the score? will soon be the paramount question of the hour, overshadowing all lesser issues, such as change in dynasties and international wars.

Windsor Castle is now being guarded against the militant suffragettes. It may be a serious matter, but still there is a strong tinge of the ridiculous in the idea of Great Britain tremblingly facing the woman peril.

A man in New York with a scheme intended to pay its investors—to call them polite names—over forty thousand per cent., was arrested for a misappropriation of about $100. Which shows the real superior proportions of solid cash to the most magnificent visions.

Just as the Cubists and Futurists are making art one wild, uncanny joke, the simplified spellers are attacking the language again. With all the other events of vital interest and sensational effect going on, the only thing possible for the poor dear public is a revival of brain storms.

Fair girl graduates of a Boston college have formed a club whose purpose is to keep the members from marriage for at least three years after graduation. It needs no prophet to tell the future of this club. Cupid was in business and an expert, at that, long before colleges were thought of.

Automobile and motorcycle speeders in the city streets should forfeit their licenses, as mere fining does not seem to stop the practice, but is merely counted in the costs of the game. To make the city streets racing thoroughfares is to invite accidents, and unless this speeding is handled in a more stringent manner, they are bound to happen.

A remarkable cure of lockjaw in its worst form and almost in the last stages has been made in Brooklyn. One by one modern science is attacking the most dreaded scourges of the human system, and the result of the fight is reasonable hope which further experiment will doubtless develop into certainty. These are the real and vital victories of the world.

AUSTRIA'S DEMANDS.

It would seem to an outside view as though Austria is straining at an excuse for bringing pressure to bear upon Montenegro to make the little mountainous principality give up its determination to add Scutari to its list of fighting successes. The Montenegrins were the first to throw down the gauntlet to Turkey, and they have won for themselves wide commendation by their bravery and their successes. Austria first bulldozed Servia and now seeks to perform the same act with regard to Montenegro for the same purpose of creating a strong Albanian state that will be under its protectorate and ready for gobbling up at the first opportunity, as were Herzegovina and Bosnia.

The pretext for the fulminations of Austria is ridiculous, the allegations being evidently hatched up for the occasion and of an unfortunate nature to interject into a situation that has enough of inherent acuteness already— that is the general situation of the greater powers with respect to the demands of the allies.

It must be confessed that sympathy goes out to the Montenegrins, who disclaim the specific charges of Austria and propose an impartial commission to investigate them. That is not what Austria wants. It wants the scalp of Montenegro.

STORM-SWEPT OMAHA.

Coming soon upon the heels of the cyclone of last week that ravaged throughout parts of the South and West, the Middle West storm that wasted so large a portion of the city of Omaha and that was the cause of the death of so many persons, constitutes a second chapter of calamitous nature. The area that the storm spread over was not as wide as that of last week, and the storm itself was of a different nature. The sweep of the blast and the tremendous rain of sand and dust that shut out the sky was a phenomenon of rare occurrence.

Fire following the storm, piled disaster upon disaster, and brought the widest affliction to the population. Many persons beside those killed suffered grave injuries, and the property loss will total a very large sum. In addition to the work of destruction at Omaha a wide territory has been devastated and wires were down and traffic impeded.

So terrible a disaster as this, coming with such unexpected fierceness and leaving such a trail of suffering in its wake, has called forth the sympathy of the country. The local resources will be sufficient to meet all needs, but it will be many months before the evidences of this storm have been removed, and its losses will not be repaired in a very much longer time.

THE EATON CASE.

Evidently one of the most puzzling of mysteries, and yet doubtless susceptible of simple explanation, either having criminal bearing or otherwise, the Eaton case will absorb the interest of the country for some time to come. The various webs of suspicion that have been woven are of doubtful legitimacy. Yet the relations between the deceased admiral and his wife, the allegations made of fear of poisoning by each, and the declarations alleged to have been made by the wife as to the unbalanced mental state of her husband, all give the material for a tragedy to the circumstances of the taking-off of the man who was buried without naval honors that would ordinarily be accorded one of his rank.

The police are unearthing suspects in connection with the case, and rumors of additional arrests are going around. It is remarkable how many things alleged to have been said of an incriminating nature are vouched for by one or another person evidently under some degree of excitement. The unfortunate part of such domestic tragedies is the fact that many things said in passing spleen or pique are revived as utterances of the gravest import and when recited in connection with a thread of testimony to substantiate a motive, have this effect.

THE DEARTH OF DIPLOMATS.

There is no lack of willing ones to fill the diplomatic posts that have been refused by Mr. McCombs, former President Eliot, of Harvard, and others who have had tendered them the most delectable places in the diplomatic service. The spirit in most cases is willing, though the pocketbook is weak. The Democratic administration has sought to revive Jeffersonian simplicity in the diplomatic field by naming men of wide ability and simplicity of life for the important posts rather than gilded nincompoops—as the Jeffersonians would doubtless describe many of the men of financial availability who have not been asked to go abroad. The sequel to the attempt to Jeffersonianize the diplomatic service by putting forward promising young men or elderly scholars is exactly what might have been expected. For from Jefferson himself was heard the plaint that he could not possibly sustain the prestige of the country at a foreign post upon a paltry twelve thousand dollars a year. If this was the case at that early date how much more does the plaint have force with the salary not considerably increased today and the style of maintenance of American traditions in Paris and London vastly greater than in the days of Jefferson.

President Wilson is sounding the long and loud peremiad that has resounded from the earliest days, that democratic penuriousness in the matter of salaries for diplomats makes it impossible for any save rich men to fill the coveted posts. The bright young men and the frugal elderly scholars must yield any inclinations they have to fill such positions. It was but a few years ago that certain delicate diplomatic situations arose in Germany over the inability of the incumbent of the important post of American representative abroad to maintain the style of entertainment which the dignity of the court to which he was commissioned required of those coming to it. It was not so long ago that the American representative at the court of the Czar was openly snubbed because of his simplicity and lack of flourish. In fact, even at Constantinople the then American representative had similar treatment and was forced to cool his heels in the antechamber while the representatives of even second-rate powers were given the preference, provided these were of the same official rating. This has been the perpetual cry of the State Department from the earliest times—the inability of this country to be accorded respect through its representatives abroad without providing them embassies and a satisfactory salary.

Some time ago the department issued a report upon the salaries paid diplomatic representatives by other countries and these ran more than a third above those of the United States, the other countries throwing is embassies besides. The added difficulty to the present situation is the fact that the superior posts abroad have for some time past been filled by men who had the financial resources to rent palaces and to be lavish in entertainment beyond anything actually required by the positions. So that for men of no means or of paltry means to enter into the incumbency of such posts would cause striking and startling contrasts that would prove humiliating to them and distressing to their country. So that Jeffersonian simplicity falls down at the point of securing men unadorned by ample private resources to fill the chief posts abroad.

An act was passed in 1911 providing for the securing of legation sites and the erection of suitable buildings, but without an appropriation to carry out the provision, which was limited to the expenditure of $500,000 in any one year, there has been no progress made. As a simple business proposition the country would do fine real estate business by carrying out this act. The experience of other countries has been that real estate values so rapidly increased in the localities where fine embassies were set up that the investments of the governments proved to be gilt-edged. Jeffersonian simplicity needs some help from practical experience and hard sense and President Wilson realizes this fact.

PRESIDENTIAL SIMPLICITY.

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald has sent to his paper a list of sixteen precedents which the new President has smashed before his administration has rounded out a thirty-day period. The first of the precedents, or, established customs, to be ignored was the inauguration ball. That was an iconoclastic performance that attracted much attention, but aroused very little dissent. Some of the other precedents mentioned as being turned down are mere matters of personal taste or convenience and are really too trivial for mention as established usages. Such, for instance, as the fact that the President shaves himself, goes to a different church each Sunday, turns down his wine glasses at banquets and eats cold suppers on Sundays.

As to really important customs, however, in the routine of conducting the business of the chief executive office, it remains to be seen whether the President will attempt to ignore them and as to whether they can be successfully ignored. Some of these customs he has apparently already discovered that he cannot ignore. It was announced, for instance, prior to the 4th of March, that the approaches to the President would always be wide open. The idea conveyed was that any plain citizen might at any time walk in and state his business to the President.

That scheme seems to have been already abandoned. Most of the other established usages will likely appear, after a little experience, to be justified by circumstances and conditions pertaining to the presidential functions. When it comes to doing things in a simple way President Wilson will find that his predecessors have set an abundance of precedents. Nearly every president has endeavored to minimize the formalities of the office.

THE ABATTOIR FIRE.

The early morning fire at the abattoir was one of singular menace and fraught with accidents that might have been disastrous. The injuring of so many firemen was an incident of distress and the fact that there were not many outright deaths is a matter of satisfaction under the circumstances. The men who take the risks of this calling are frequently placed in positions of predicament and customarily of peril. The falling of walls when fire has gutted a structure can seldom be anticipated with any degree of accuracy and the matter of whether the firemen are or are not caught in the collapse is more one of luck than of possible management, although the chiefs do all they can to reduce the danger risk.

The amount of damage done the abattoir, one of the largest in the East, will doubtless amount to more than a third of a million of dollars. The incidents of the fire were of the most spectacular nature. Such blaze as this might have been very much more disastrous than it proved, with the inflammable material present to feed upon. The credit for keeping the fire within bounds and getting it under control as rapidly as was the case is all due to the fine management of a finely equipped and drilled fire-fighting force.

NOTES AND NOTIONS

BY JOSH WINK.

THE WAY.

If you want to get a cubist
Or a futurist effect,
Take the shade of an idea
Which is quite completely wrecked,
Put a pencil in the fingers
Of an active two-year-old,
And just tell him to draw pictures;
He will do as he is told.

Then go get a rabid rooster
Who's been scratching in the dirt;
Make him walk across the picture
With an extra jaunty flirt,
Keep him thusly promenading
Till he's spattered o'er the page
Lines and jabs about the baby's—
For this style is all the rage.

Now throw inkspots on the picture,
And if still remains a trace
Of a line which could have meaning,
Try that meaning to erase
With a currycomb or toothpick;
Then when you have done it all
To the likeness of a brainstorm,
Call it, "Maidens at a Ball."

A WRONG PRESENTMENT.

"You say this play was presented by Manager Fakit?"
"Yes, I said so."
"Well, if I had my way about it, it would be presented by the grand jury."

NO WONDER.

"There were some startling developments in that case."
"What was it?"
"An amateur photographer's."

A DANGER.

"It is a very serious thing to have measles in a jail."
"Why so very serious?"
"Because it makes the inmates break out."

A DISTINCTION.

"That young man seems rather reserved and haughty. Is he anybody in particular?"
"Dear me, yes, indeed. He was once knocked down by a multimillionaire's motor car."

HIS RETICENCE.

"Did the bride's father give her away?"
"Not much he didn't. He was too anxious to get her off his hands."

POSSIBLY.

"What do they call lawyer's briefs so?"
"Because they make their clients short."

A GOOD ONE.

She—I always like to have something on hand.
He—How about an engagement ring?

A NECESSITY.

"Maud is very much stuck up about that musical machine of hers."
"That's nothing. With a musical machine, you have to put on airs."
JOSH WINK.

HIS OCCUPATION.

Governor Carey, of Wyoming, while on a recent Eastern trip was present at a social affair where a couple of the guests referred to court procedure and spoke of the exacting attitude of the lawyers in examining a witness.

One of the guests said he was inclined to think that some lawyers went the limit in the matter of questioning, and the Governor remarked that he was reminded of a case that had come under his observation.

A witness in a particular case had been examined by the lawyer of the plaintiff, the Governor said, and was turned over to the lawyer for the defense for cross-examination.

"Now, then, Mr. Smith," began the legal one, "what did I understand you to say that your occupation is?"

"I am a piano finisher," answered the witness.

"Yes, I see," persisted the lawyer, "but you must be more definite. Do you polish them or do you move them?"—Philadelphia Telegraph.

LUCK IN DISGUISE.

"Don't tell me, after this," said Mrs. Medford as she put her paper aside, "that there's nothing in luck."

"Who's been having luck now?" her husband asked.

"The Caldwells. Burglars broke into their house last nght."

"Oh! I thought from the way you spoke somebody had been having a streak of good luck."

"It was good luck. It gave Mrs. Caldwell a chance to tell the reporter that more than $500 worth of silver was taken. They never had $50 worth of silver in their lives."—Chicago Record Herald.

LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY

A Russian Count Who Has Served Three Emperors—His Distinguished Career.

Special to The American.

As General Count Worentzoff-Dashkoff has every order of knighthood of Russia, by virtue of his possession of that of St. Andrew, the Czar has presented him, on the occasion of the tercentenary of the Romanoff dynasty, with a unique distinction, namely, a medallion surrounded by diamonds, and showing within the latter three exquisite miniatures of the three emperors whom he has served with so much loyalty and devotion, namely, those of Alexander II., Alexander III., and Nicholas II. This medallion will be worn with full uniform, suspended from the neck by the ribbon of St. Andrew.

Count Worentzoff-Dashkoff is one of the most notable figures in Russian life, and as governor general of caucasus, the most important viceroyalty in the gift of the Czar, has, through his humane and liberal administration restored peace and order in that formerly turbulent portion of the empire. When he was appointed to take up his residence at Tiflis, the entire Caucasus was in a state of violent insurrection, civil war was raging, brigandage was rife, and life and property, domestic as well as foreign, were to such an extent at the mercy of outlaws and bandits that all trade and industry were at a standstill. Today trade and industry are once more flourishing in the Caucasus, which has been so bountifully endowed by nature with mineral and agricultural wealth.

The viceroy has given back to the Armenian-Georgian Church its vast property, which had been confiscated by his predecessor, Prince Galitzine. He has revived the authority of its bishops and clergy, as well as that of the Mohammedan priesthood, thereby converting them into allies instead of dangerous foes of the Russian government. It would take too long to describe all the reforms that he has brought about, in the face of almost insuperable obstacles and discouraging opposition from St. Petersburg. But that he has been successful is shown by the peace and prosperity which now reign in the Caucasus, and by the part which the people of every class and race there took in the celebration two or three years ago of the golden jubilee of his entering the service of the Russian crown.

The Count and Countess are among the few persons in Russia who enjoy the affection of both empresses, and that, too, in an altogether exceptional degree. When the now widowed Czarina first came to Russia as a bride, the Countess, heiress to the vast wealth of the former Princes Worentzoff, had recently been married to Count Dashkoff, and was appointed grand mistress of her household, while the Count was placed at the head of the then Czarevitch's court. The two couples, that is to say, Alexander III., and his consort, and the Count and Countess, were never parted while Alexander lived, and they had but few secrets from one another. Rendered indifferent to riches and to advancement, by reason of their great wealth and rank, the services of the Worentzoff-Dashkoffs to Alexander and his wife were wholly disinterested, a fact which the Emperor and Empress appreciated all the more by reason of the rarity of such conditions. As soon as Alexander III. succeeded to the throne, he appointed the Count to be minister of the imperial house, and as such, not only the head of the court, but also of all the immense crown property. The Count was kept in this position by Emperor Nicholas until about a year after the coronation.

It may be remembered that the latter was marred by the terrible catastrophe on the plains of Chodynka, outside Moscow, where, owing to a panic, which might easily have been averted by the most elementary precautions on the part of the authorities, several thousands of unfortunate peasants, who had come in some cases hundreds of miles to pay their homage to the Czar, lost their lives by being trampled to death. So intense was popular indignation at home and abroad that the Emperor was compelled to institute a commission of inquiry, in order to determine the blame and responsibility for the tragedy. The commission was headed by the aged Count Pahlon, and with a considerable amount of independence returned a verdict placing all the blame upon the real culprit, the late Grandduke Sergius, who was governor general of Moscow.

The Grandduke had all along endeavored to exculpate himself at the expense of Count Worentzoff-Dashkoff, on the pretext that the latter, as minister of the imperial house, and as such in charge of the coronation, was at fault; and that the Count should have been cleared at his (the Grandduke's) expense, so embittered him that he set to work to make the Count's position intolerable. Some error in etiquette at a subsequent court ball at St. Petersburg on the part of one of the masters of the ceremonies gave Sergius the opportunity of assailing the Count with such a torrent of invective and reproaches in the presence of the guests that he insisted on resigning his office at court, declaring that nothing whatsoever could induce him to remain in a position where he would necessarily be brought into frequent contact with the Grandduke. It was only with the utmost reluctance that the Emperor accepted the Count's resignation, and not long afterwards appointed him to take charge of the governor generalship of the Caucasus, endowing him with the rank of viceroy, which had not been held by any of his predecessors since the administration of old Grandduke Michael. One of the Count's daughters, a very beautiful woman, is married to Elim Demidoff, Prince of San Donate, and now Russian envoy to the Court of Athens.

The Viceroy was succeeded as minister of the imperial house by Gen. Baron Vladimir Freedericksz, who has continued in office ever since. With his long mustache, recalling that of the late King Humbert, he presents a striking appearance, and is always to be found in immediate attendance on the Czar as his principal guard and shadow. He is absolutely devoted to the Emperor, the Empress and their children, and administers not only the entire court, but also the huge crown property, with ability and success. In addition to his other duties, he acts as chief advisor, as a sort of prime minister to the Czar, in the latter's supervision and control of the various members of the reigning family, which is by no means an easy task, as shown by the disciplinary measures which have since the accession of Nicholas been adopted against the Granddukes Paul, Alexis, Michael Michaelovitch, Cyril, Doris, Andrew and against the Emperor's two brothers, the late Grandduke George and ex-Grandduke Michael. The Emperor has just rewarded the services of the General by promoting him from the rank of baron to that of count.

Titles of count bestowed by the Russian Crown are rare. True, there are a number of nobles of the German-speaking provinces of Russia who have been permitted to retain their German title of count or baron for use in Russia. There are Polish nobles who have been authorized by the Russian Crown to retain their Polish titles, and foreigners, such as, for instance, the Cassinis, when they entered the service of the Czar were permitted to retain their foreign titles. But none of those are Russian dignities. They are merely foreign titles whose use has been sanctioned in Russia. I do not suppose that there have been more than three-score Russian titles of count bestowed by the Czars since the days of Peter the Great; among the most notable being those of the Mouravieffs and of the Dashkoffs. Thanks to this, a count whose patent as such is a gift from the Muscovite Crown, is a man of far greater importance in Russia than the vast majority of so-called princes, many of whom merely rank as petty nobility.

The newly created Count Freedericksz, minister of the imperial household, and son of an aid-de-camp general of Alexander II., must not be confounded with his cousin, a general of the same name, who for nearly 30 years was military attache of the Russian Embassy at Paris, and who quitted the Fench metropolis under somewhat sensational circumstances. During the Dreyfus court-martial at Rennes, the fact was brought to light that on the occasion of the monthly dinners of the foreign military attaches at Paris, which invariably took place at Voison's famous restaurant, concealed telephones, phonographs and analagous acoustic contrivances were arranged in such a manner as to enable the French War Department to know exactly what was being discussed at table.

The general felt after this that his position had become intolerable. For a while he himself was a victim of this shameful piece of sharp practice on the part of the Intelligence Bureau of the French War Department, he feared that by reason of the closeness of the alliance between Russia and France, and between the war departments of the two countries, he might be regarded by the more suspicious of his foreign colleagues as a party to the scheme. On his return to St. Petersburg he was appointed by the Czar director of that important bureau at court which has charge of all the philanthropic institutions mtaintained by the imperial family.

MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

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The Real Test.

President Wilson may pose as a "progressive," but when, pray, did he ever say anything disrespectful of the Supreme Court? Verily, a rank imposter.—Kansas City Journal.

GOSSIP OF THE STAGE

Newark is to have a summer musical stock company.

Next season the sisters Mabel and Edith Taliaferro are to star in a new play by Cleveland Moffat.

A Gentleman of Leisure, in which John Barrymore is to star, has been renamed A Thief in the Night.

Laurette Taylor is to appear next season in Barbareza, under the management of Oliver Morosco. As the play is a tragedy, Miss Taylor will have a chance to show her versatility.

Dorothy Toye, who has recently joined Marie Dressler's Players, is making her first appearance in this country for several years. Miss Toye has been a feature of the English music halls for several seasons.

Andrew Mack is to return to vaudeville in a sketch called The Ship's Concert. He got the idea from the way in which the second-class passengers of various nationalities were entertaining themselves on the ocean trip.

The High Road, the title of Mrs. Fiske's play, comes from the old Scotch ballad, Loch Lomond, the words being taken from the couplet which reads "Ye'll take the high road, and I'll take the low road, and I'll be in Scotland afore ye."

George M. Cohan has appeared for the last time on the New York stage in Broadway Jones, and after a short tour will retire to his farm near Providence, R. I. Perhaps, though, the stage will not allow itself to be thus easily given up.

Lionel Walsh, who has one of the principal comedy roles in Sweethearts, is to be starred next season by Werba and Luescher in Mr. Popple, by Paul Rubens. This is being played in England with great success by G. P. Huntley. Early this season Mr. Walsh was with Alice Lloyd in Little Miss Fix It.

The Little Cafe, which is to be presented in this country by Klaw and Erlanger, has a cubist poster which, according to the press agent, produced the impression that it was a disastrous conflagration on the banks of the Thames, but turned out to be really a picture of a waiter serving a glass of wine. Very likely if it comes within the bounds of possibility the cubist and futurist craez will be dramatized.

A novel performance is to be given in New York at the benefit for Jerome Eddy, when a scene from Julius Caesar will be acted by a cast made up of dramatic critics and other newspaper men. Wilton Lackaye, who has a vitriolic wit; Arnold Daly, also with powers of expressing himself, and other actors who have suffered from the critical pen, will be invited to occupy one of the boxes and write their opinions of the acting.

PUBLIC OPINION

Comment of Leading Newspapers on a Variety of Topics—Theory Encounters Facts.

[Philadelphia Inquirer.]

Among the things which President Wilson declared in his anaugural has got to be changed was "a tariff" which cuts us off from our proper part in the commerce of the world."

"Cuts us off!" Well, let's see about that.

The foreign commerce of the United States during the month of February was the greatest ever recorded in any previous February. It amounted, exports and imports together, to $343,595,130, and there was a balance of trade in our favor of $44,456,702. That is to say, in February alone we sold to foreign countries $44,456,702 worth of goods in excess of what we purchased.

Here is the record of the past eight months: Imports, $1,246,053,981; exports, $1,720,660,636; balance of trade in favor of the United States, $474,606,655.

And all this was accomplished under that same tariff which President Wilson says must be altered because it "cuts us off from our proper part in the commerce of the world!"

How theories do sometimes go a-tottering and a-crumbling when they encounter facts.

It is true that we are not doing anything like the business that we should do with South America, but that is not on account of the tariff, but because we have failed to go after the trade. We need a lively business invasion of South America, and we need lines of American steamships.

A Marriage Minimum.

[New York Tribune.]

Did Professor Carver, of Harvard, ever hear of the long line of New England clergymen who each brought up 10 children and sent their boys to college on $500 a year? It is a long road from that era of plain living and high thinking to his Utopia where nobody is to be allowed to marry who doesn't earn $5 a day. The cost of living and the scale of living have advanced since that clergyman was the type rather than the exception, but only yesterday we read of the railway fireman who brought up two children and sent his son to college for $60 a month and invested all he earned beyond that sum. And there are thousands of self-respecting men even in the expensive cities who are doing the same thing on wages far below Professor Carver's minimum.

The economic man of the old political scientist used to be denounced as an utterly inhuman abstraction divested of most of his natural instincts. But this economic man of the new science would outdo him in woodenness. Perhaps Professor Carver in his lecture-room can picture a society so well dragooned that nobody would marry on less than $5 a day. But we should like to see him enforce such a law—or rather we shouldn't; for the more he was able to enforce it the more complete would be the demoralization of the community through the diversion of human instincts from the creation of homes.

Penalty for Desertion.

[Buffalo Expressfl]

A movement which has the approval, it is said, of some high military authorities, if it was not inspired by them, has been started to modify the penalty for desertion from the Army in times of peace. The proposition is to abolish the statutory criminality of desertion and substitute therefor a purely contractural obligation, the violation of which would be a misdemeanor, for which adequate punishment would be provided.

In discussing the scheme with the Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune, the Secretary of War expressed himself strongly in approval of it. Mr. Garrison, however, is anxious to go considerably farther in the reform movement than its promoters have suggested. Instead of providing jail sentences for men guilty of desertion, he would substitute imprisonment in what he calls detention camps, where the offenders would be trained in some special line of work, so that the period of detention would be completed with increased capacity for military service, which would encourage deserters to re-enter the Army.

Don't Like This "Like."

[Chicago Inter-Ocean.]

The very numerous offenses against grammar and style committed by many writers of current fiction in England and the United States may fairly be divided into two general classes: mistakes due to carelessness and slovenliness, and mistakes due to ignorance and stupidity.

One of the most striking examples of the latter, the inexcusably stupid kind, is found in the radical misuse of the word "like." There are at least two varieties of radical misuse of that little word, one of the varieties being the substitution of "like" for "as if" in such phrases as "he spoke like he knew."

That is certainly bad enough, but the other variety is worse. It sins not only against the law of language but also against the law of common sense. When a writer writes, "She had a throat like a Venus," he commits the absurd stupidity of comparing one part of the body to the whole.

Were linguistic misdemeanors of this particular class not found over and over again in many novels there would be no call for a protest. But they are so frequent that they cause one to fear for the future of real, clean-cut, admirable English.

Democratic Tariffs.

[Omaha Bee.]

Sixteen years ago a Republican president convened a Republican Congress in extra session to provide a new tariff law to restore the prosperity that had been dissipated by four years of Democratic rule, and during these 16 years the country has enjoyed unprecedented prosperity under continuous Republican control. Now another Democratic president is about to convene a Democratic Congress in extra session to provide a Democratic tariff, and the country awaits the outcome with some apprehension.

In a recent speech in New England a member of the Wilson cabinet expressed the belief that tariff reduction should be along very moderate lines. He is right in saying that violent changes are not needed. Conditions call for no great disturbances, even for redemption of party pledges, and it should be remembered at that that a vast majority of the votes cast at the last presidential election were for candidates standing for and typifying a continuance of the protective system.

Woman's Rights Growing.

A Rhode Island woman who killed her husband has been sentenced to prison for three months. Next thing we know some reckless judge will be making it a year.—Cleveland Leader.

May Come Next.

This nation has not been embarrassed thus far by a request that it recognize the reign of Emmeline Pankhurst in England.—Chicago News.

MUCH IN LITTLE

Jesse Walker, a Frankfort (Ky.) negro, has fallen heir to a 300-acre estate.

Girls clerks in Williamsport, Pa., receive an average wage of less than $7 a week.

The forests now cover 550,000,000 acres, or about one-fourth of the total area of the country.

The match industry produces seven matches a day for each man, woman and child in the world.

The foundations of Boston public library are reported sinking, the result of the new subway.

The tobacco of New England generally commands a higher price than the average of the other states.

So that it can be used in the dark a fountain pen has been equipped with a tiny electric searchlight and a storage battery by its English inventor.

The wireless telegraph station at Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, is now in direct communication with Montevideo, about 1,250 miles distant, from whence messages are sent to Europe and other parts of the world.

A million dollars a day is now the export record of the iron and steel manufacturers of the United States. The export records for the current fiscal year show $215,000,000 worth of iron and steel manufactures in the 215 days for which a statistical record is available.

Minister John B. Jackson reports that he has received formal notification from the Bulgarian government, under date of February 2, that "in view of the resumption of military operations, access to the port of Varna to vessels of commerce is prohibited." Varna is an important Bulgarian port on th Black Sea.

Watermelon seeds are now worth $5 gold per 100 pounds at Tientsin, China, states Consul General Knabenshue, while pumpkin seeds are quoted at $3.25 and $1.10 per 100 pounds, respectively, for the best and lower qualities. These seeds are served at Chinese dinners as salted almonds are served in America.

An announcement has just been published that an international exposition will be held at the watering place of Vichy from May 5 to October 15 this year. It is intended that the exposition shall show the progress accomplished and the improvements in actual use at watering places, seaside, climatic and vacation resorts.

More Dollars Than Sense.

A coal baron of Pennsylvania is said to have made $1,000,000 in one day. Fact that he is looking for a third wife suggests that he has more dollars than sense.—Florida Times-Union.

Getting at the Truth.

When they get through with that physical valuation business we'll probably know some things about the railroads that we hardly suspected before.—Indianapolis News.

IN THE BEST OF HUMOR

"You'd better eat it slow," said Willie to the clergyman who was dining with the family. "Mamma never gives more'n one piece of pie."—Boston Transcript.

"Let's go West and kill Indians."
"What's the matter with you, kid? Some of our best baseball talent is being picked up among the redskins. Pittsburgh Post.

"What are you doing for our cause?" asked a suffragette worker.
"Doing?" replied the man. "I'm supporting one of your most enthusiastic members."—Detroit Free Press.

Sillicus—Jack Rapidde seems to have a fine head for business, but he is so fast.
Cynicus—Yes, he's so fast I'm afraid he'll never get to the front.—Philadelphia Record.

Criticus—Who is the villain of that new play at the Hamme Theater?
Witticus—I'm not quite sure, but it must be either the man who wrote it or the man who produced it.—Chicago News.

"Don't you think it would be a good thing if our legislators were limited to one term?"
"It would depend on where the term was to be served."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"Why does Pidgin look so woe-begone?"
"His best girl told him she adored Maurice Maeterlinck, and Pidgin thinks he has a dangerous rival in town."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

"I do not see how you justify your claim that your model is an advance over any street car ever built," said the traction magnate.
"I have provided double the number of straps," explained the inventor.—Buffalo Express.

"Wot th' doose did ye tell 'im there was a lot o' fishin' for? Wi, ther' ain't a couple o' codlin' within three mile o' the pier, an' you knows it."
"That's all right, ain't it? The less fishes ther' is, the more fishin' ther' is to git 'em."—London Opinion.

"Did you punish our son for throwing a lump of coal at Willie Smiggs?" asked the careful mother.
"I did," replied the busy father. "I don't care so much for the Smiggs boy, but I can't have anybody in this family throwing coal around like that."—Washington Star.

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