

The Commoner.

in 1826. He says he expects to live to the century mark. "I'm only eighty-seven years old," he says, "but somehow I can't hear like I once could. For that reason I resigned as justice of the peace." In 1855 Long came to Cincinnati, and from there to Omaha, where he has resided ever since. But long before he left Massachusetts he held office in the Masonic fraternity. In Massachusetts he rode on the first train that ever ran over a completed railroad in this country. That was the old Boston and Lowell. In Cincinnati he held office in various lodges and fraternal societies, but it was not until he came to Omaha early in the '60's that he was elected to public office. Omaha was only a collection of mud huts and Indian tepees when Judge Long was elected city auditor. When he came up for re-election he was defeated by Charles Goodrich, the only defeat he ever suffered. Afterward he was elected to the school board, on which he served seventeen years, two terms as chairman of the board. In 1891 he was elected a justice of the peace, which office he held until he resigned.

A NOVEL defense by a prisoner is described in a Macon, Mo., dispatch to the St. Louis Republic, as follows: Christopher C. Carter, who is serving a six month's term in the Macon jail, in a signed statement to the local papers refutes the charge that he was to be one of the beneficiaries of the liquor which some boys tried to smuggle into the jail. The statement that the liquor was seized by a deputy and a Shelby county man was arrested for sending it, was printed in a Macon paper. In a signed reply, Carter says that instead of thinking of liquor and such things, he had been busily engaged in reading, as follows: Thirty-two magazines. Two daily newspapers. The Congressional Record of the month. One volume of sacred history. Latest decisions from southwestern reports, comprising fifteen cases from Arkansas, twenty-seven from Kentucky, thirty-five from Missouri, sixty from Texas. "Since readying them," Carter writes, "the Missouri cases have been committed to memory for future use. I have also started two manuscripts during the month, one of them being upon the 'Dred Scott Case,' and the other on 'The Follies of Our Criminal Procedure,' to be read before a national association of lawyers. With such matter to occupy my time I am confident that a fair-minded public will never believe that I sought anything to drink which would cloud my intellect. I am not guilty."

CONCERNING America's vast business a writer in the New York Press says: We talk of the economic growth of the United States as the most amazingly rapid that has ever taken place anywhere in the world. And now and then it is helpful to have some figures to bear us out. The Nation's Business, published by the chamber of commerce of the United States, furnishes them. Fifty years ago exports were \$5.83 per capita, compared with \$22.41 now; imports were \$5.79, compared with \$16.94 now. But the most surprising thing is that the total commerce of the United States a half century ago, according to this publication, was less than one-fourth that of the single port of New York in 1912. The exports and imports at New York are given as \$1,793,000,000 for last year, \$2,000,000 more than London and \$120,000,000 more than Hamburg, which leads Liverpool by a small margin. Assuming that the figures for 1862 do not include the then blockaded ports of the confederacy, they cover New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston and the entire Pacific coast. They show as strikingly as anything could show what a rich inheritance America possesses not only in natural wealth, but in the industry and enterprise of its people, and what a great obligation rests upon the nation to use this wealth aright.

ATTRIBUTE to the American city is paid by the Philadelphia Public Ledger in this way: Forty years ago the American city was regarded as hopeless. Crowded tenements, dirty alleys, haunts of vice and cesspools of disease were accepted as inevitable results of dense populations. Epidemics were expected and when they came and killed their thousands they were looked upon as necessary evils. But science found the microbes and the civic conscience found the joy of public service. Thus in a third of a century a miracle was wrought, and today the city shows up better in the health and insanity and defective statistics than the country. The pressing problems of better living are found

in the rural sections. There is much to do in the way of sanitation and ventilation, of purer water and more sunshine. There is a noble gain to be made in giving more variety and interest to country life. The lonesomeness can be changed and the change means a wonderful uplift in the average of the new generation. Of course, the cities are far from perfection—but they are also far from their conditions of forty years ago, and city people have seen and learned. Soon they will be scattered throughout the rural regions. Why not take with them a purpose to use their knowledge wisely? In helping the people in the country to better living and healthier ways they will be helping themselves, for we know only too well that the energy of the city is fed by the new blood from the country, and the better and purer this blood is the better for the city.

A PROTEST against war talk by men of authority is registered by the Cleveland Leader. The Leader says: Major General Leonard Wood says: "We know that a war is coming. It is arrant nonsense to say that the day of war is over. Wars are not made by individuals, but by the pressure of public events. If there were war tomorrow the United States would need 16,000 trained officers to command 600,000 men. We have 4000 men prepared to command." Senator Elihu Root says: "It is no longer governments, but people who do most to bring on wars. We in America must learn that we can not continue a policy of peace with insult. We must learn civility. We must learn that when an American sovereign speaks of the affairs of a foreign nation he must observe those rules of courtesy by which alone the peace of the world can be maintained." Let us contrast the words of these two eminent men—the one a professional soldier of high rank, and the other a statesman of broad vision. Major General Wood is doing his best to promote a larger army, and a more efficient army, and he has the sympathy of a majority of Americans in his efforts. It is agreed that under present international conditions it is the part of wisdom reasonably to increase our military resources. But it is true, as Senator Root says, that fiery talk fans the flame of war. It is just such outbursts as the foregoing by Major General Wood in his commencement address at the Carnegie Institute of Technology that Senator Root warns against. Senator Root is right. Suppose the German kaiser were to speak as Major General Wood has done, or suppose the czar or the Mikado or King George were to do so? How soon would follow such intemperate language the roar of big guns of dreadnoughts?

THE first White House wedding is announced in a dispatch, carried by the Associated Press as follows: The President and Mrs. Wilson announced the engagement of their second daughter, Miss Jessie Woodrow Wilson, to Francis Bowes Sayre of Lancaster, Pa. The wedding is expected to take place next November at the White House. Mr. Sayre is at present at attorney in the office of District Attorney Whitman of New York. While close friends of both families have known of the engagement for some time, announcement was withheld. White House officials accompanied the brief announcement with a biography of Mr. Sayre. He is twenty-eight years old and after preparing at the Hill school at Pottstown, Pa., and Lawrenceville, N. J., graduated from Williams college in 1909. He was manager of the football team there, valedictorian of his class and interested in Y. M. C. A. work. He spent two summers with Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell in his missionary work on the coast of Labrador, and studied law at Harvard law school, where he graduated last year "cum laude." He has traveled extensively during his vacations, spending last summer in Alaska and northern Siberia. Mr. Sayre comes from a collegiate family. His father was the late Robert Heyshaw Sayre, for a long time president of the board of trustees of Lehigh university, and builder of the Lehigh Valley railroad. His mother was Martha Finley Nevin, daughter of John Williamson Nevin, theologian and president of Franklin and Marshall college at Lancaster, Pa. She is descended from Hugh Williamson of North Carolina, one of the framers of the constitution. She is a sister of Robert J. Nevin, head of the American church of Rome, Italy, and a first cousin of Ethelbert Nevin, the composer. Miss Wilson is twenty-four years old and was educated at Goucher college, Baltimore, where she

specialized in political science. She has done much settlement work in Philadelphia and has been actively identified with the Y. W. C. A., having recently made many speeches in its behalf. While Mr. Sayre is not known to Washingtonians, he has made several quiet little visits to the White House in recent months and was a frequent visitor at the Wilson home at Princeton, N. J. The announcement was received with keen interest in social circles of the national capital, as the wedding starts the winter season with an important social function. Not since Miss Alice Roosevelt and Former Representative Longworth of Ohio were married has there been a wedding at the White House, and many years prior to that the wedding of Cleveland took place.

THE women of Illinois are rejoicing these days. A writer in the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal says: By the time Governor Dunne had signed the Illinois woman suffrage bill the scope of that measure had become known. It was not easy to believe that the Illinois legislature had suddenly and without public discussion admitted women to a vote in the vital matters of government. Women have had municipal suffrage in Kansas for thirty years, and no conspicuous results have been shown. If this was all that had been done in Illinois, it was important but not revolutionary. As the new law is analyzed it is found to mean much more than that. Besides a vote for president, which the Kansas women had never had, the Illinois law grants woman suffrage on some county offices. But the most interesting test of women's votes comes by the way of the very municipal suffrage that Kansas women have. The women may now govern the nation's second largest city on equal terms with men. What will the women do with Chicago? Will they keep Hinky Dink and Bathhouse John in the council? Will the town continue the easy going policy toward capitalized vice? Illinois is a local option state in liquor matters. The suffrage extension appears to give women a voice in local liquor referendums. Where were the brewers when this bill was passing? In the western states where women vote they do not appear to have landed on the saloons with any more force than the man had been doing, yet the liquor capitalists are in a state of anguish over the spread of women's votes. Illinois will confirm or allay that fear. Friends of votes for women will say that specific results are no fair test of the expediency of woman suffrage, that women are entitled to a voice in public affairs regardless of the tone of voice. Nevertheless, the result will have weight with many of the men whose votes will be needed to extend women's votes in other states. The specific results of women's votes in Illinois will have an important influence upon other suffrage campaigns.

DR. LEONARD P. AYRES, speaking in Philadelphia, said that not long ago he and his staff had been asked to examine the school curriculum of a certain large New England town. He discovered that most of the children dropped out of that school at the seventh grade. Probing further, he found that the course in arithmetic in that grade dealt almost wholly with the various tables of measurement. He took ten representative problems from this course and submitted them to ten business and professional executives in New York city, men whose salaries range from \$3,000 to \$15,000 a year. The story continues: "The highest mark was scored by the secretary of a well-known propagandist society in social work. His grade was 25. There were several zeroes. Two of the problems were concerned with buying and selling paper in bulk. One of the men who took the examination was the editor of a magazine and another was the head of a book-publishing house. Both failed on these two problems. They declared that the terms employed in the problem had not been in current use for fifty years. Each of the ten men explained his low grade by saying: "I learned that stuff once, but I haven't had any use for it since."

A FAIR CHANCE

It is an injustice to Mr. Bryan to say he is at last eating salt out of the hand of the goldbugs. He is simply standing back of his chief. Mr. Bryan is determined, so far as he is concerned, that Mr. Wilson shall have a fair chance. And, by the way, apparently that is all the president asks.—Sioux City (Iowa) Journal (rep.)