



**Pretender to Be Editor.**

To provide the French royalists with an organ, the Duke of Orleans, who is the pretender to the throne of France, has purchased the Parisian newspaper *Soleil*, and will conduct the journal in the interests of the cause of which he is the head. It is understood that the Duke will assume personal charge of the editorial department of the paper. The novel spectacle of royalty, in the person of a claimant to a throne, who by blood and marriage is related to many of the crowned heads of the continent, turning editor will be interesting to contemplate. Orleans can well afford to essay the task of financing a newspaper. His private fortune is ample. Recently it was reinforced by a decision of the French court which condemned the French government to turn over to the Duke and his family property and funds worth many millions of dollars. The property consists largely of canal shares which were the property of the house of Orleans at the time of the great revolution in the latter part of the eighteenth century. After the downfall of the dynasty this property was confiscated. In 1814 laws were passed providing for its restoration to the original owners. This was impossible in a majority of cases, as the government had disposed of the property. Subsequently the law provided that the restoration should be made in cases where the new owners died without heirs, which would place the government in actual possession of it. Restitution has been made under the decision rendered lately by the courts.



**Emancipate Farmer's Wife.**  
F. J. Frost, of Almond, Wis., who represents the Second District in the Wisconsin legislature, wants a steam laundry established at every crossroads in the state, where farmers' wives may bring their weekly washings and save themselves one of the hardest duties of their work. Mr. Frost has not fully developed his idea as yet, and has no definite plan for the establishment and maintenance of the laundries, but he declares his plan is feasible. He is engaged in visiting the residents of his district, fixing his politi-



F. J. FROST.

cal fences, and incidentally getting their views on his pet scheme. He contrasts the comparatively little labor done by the housewife in the city, where laundries are available, with the drudgery of the country farmhouse, where each week's washing and ironing must be done on the premises and commonly by the housekeeper herself.

**Head of Mystic Shriners.**

Philip C. Shaffer, the new imperial potentate of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, is a native of Philadelphia, and one of the best known business men in town. He has just entered upon his fifty-first year and for more than one-half of his life has been a Mason. Upwards of seventeen years ago he joined the Shriners, and for twelve years he officiated in the post of Oriental Guide of Lu Lu Temple Philadelphia. For three years he was the potentate of the temple, and he was elected to the office of the deputy imperial potentate at the last meeting of the Shriners. Mr. Shaffer, as may be imagined, is one of the most enthusiastic of the Shriners in the country. He is devoted to spirit and purpose of this order, and few men have more mystic friends than he in his home city and throughout the country. It



IMPERIAL POTENTATE SHAFFER.

was believed from the beginning that he would be promoted from the second highest to the highest office in the order. Mr. Shaffer is prominent in the furniture trade.

**Current Topics**

**A Youthful Authoress.**

When a writer barely twenty years of age produces a book of sufficient merit to attract so conservative a publishing firm as the Harpers it is not too fulsome credit to say she has achieved a distinct success. This distinction has been earned by Miss Margaret Horton Potter with her third novel, "The House of DeMally." Miss Potter is the daughter of O. W. Potter, the Chicago millionaire, and was born in Chicago in 1881. Her sister, Mrs. Gertrude Potter Daniels, has also published two successful books. Miss Potter has acquired most of her education through travel and reading. Miss Potter's last trip abroad included a considerable stay in a remote village in Sicily; there she secured much of the material woven into her last novel, the scenes of which are laid in the court



of Louis XV. Miss Potter's first book was called "A Social Lion" and her second "Unconquered."

**Business in South Africa.**

Consul General Stowe of Cape Town predicts a business revival in South Africa after the close of the Boer war and advises American exporters to be on the lookout for their share of the new trade. He argues that the losses of the war must be replaced and that these losses cover almost everything men buy and sell, from farm implements and household necessities to mining machinery and railway supplies. To corroborate his argument he cites the fact that American manufacturers of mining machinery have already received orders aggregating \$5,000,000. Mr. Stowe's rosy predictions should be accepted with some reservations. As regards one class of imports his view is correct, while as regards another class he probably is in error. It is true that the need for goods and commodities of all kinds will be widespread and urgent, but the cash with which to buy them will be lacking in many cases. The Boers are fighting desperately and have become impoverished. They will be sorely in need of clothes, food, implements, and all the necessaries of life, but they are now too poor to do any large amount of buying for some years to come, that is unless they wipe out British authority. Then they can raise all the money they will need.

**Mascagni to Tour United States.**

Pietro Mascagni, the celebrated Italian composer, who is coming to America for a concert season of eight weeks, has written several operas, but only one of these has taken its place beside the great compositions of the nineteenth century. This is "Cavalleria Rusticana." Mascagni, like Verdi, was born in the humblest of circumstances. His father was a baker of Leghorn, and in that city the future



PIETRO MASCAGNI.

composer first looked upon day on December 7, 1863. He played so well on the piano that the musicians of the town sent him as a child to the conservatory at Milan. There he fought with his masters and turned his back upon them. Then he traveled with a cheap opera company and wrote the merest nothings in music. In 1888 a Milanese manager offered a prize for an opera. Mascagni wrote "Cavalleria" and sent it in. The jury at once awarded him the prize and his fortune and reputation were made at one stroke. In 1895 he became the director of the conservatory at Pesaro.

**Settle All Accounts.**

At a stag party recently given in Kansas City, a pretty and polite custom was introduced. There were just forty guests, and every one had a wife at home. Each on his departure (about 2 o'clock in the morning) received a handsome basket of sweets to take to his waiting partner and family. The outside box was of satinwood, costing \$8, and made a pleasant memento of the occasion. It is safe to say there were no certain lectures in forty homes that night.

**LIFE IN BEAUMONT**



While vast fortunes are being piled up in oil speculations in Texas not all success is reached in this way, writes a correspondent from Beaumont, the center of the oil region. Business enterprises of all kinds are paying well. I was in a restaurant the other day—a plain looking affair that didn't seem to be worth \$300—and the owner sat by a desk on which was spread out \$18,000 in small bills and coin. I asked him what he kept so much money in his place for, and his answer was: "Have to do it stranger. Everybody around here is using \$500 and \$1,000 bills. I have a dozen or so of them thrust at me every day, and I must

have the change handy." At night he locks the desk and goes home feeling secure in his wealth. Before the boom this man was deeply in debt. Now his receipts are from \$1,700 and \$2,000 a day, and he's got all kinds of money. A barber had a two years' lease on a building that is worth probably \$1,000. One of the oil speculators wanted it for an office, and gave him \$8,000 to move out.

Men who came here with great sums of money cannot keep doubling it in less time than it takes to tell it. Men who came here with a little amount of money to invest in any kind of business cannot easily go broke and stand

for more than an even show of making fortunes.

Women are coming in from all sections daily and are investing in boarding houses, laundries, etc., while not a few are investing in the oil. No town ever enjoyed such a boom and what is better promises to be permanent. A curious feature about it all is that those already here are endeavoring to keep dark the possibilities so that there will be fewer to divide the vast wealth with. But this effort has not succeeded at all and every train brings in its load of prosperous looking men and women who have the dough and are looking for chances to make more.



**Parisians Applaud Her.**



Miss Sybil Sanderson reappeared at the Opera-Comique in Paris the other night in "Phryas," it being her first appearance in the French capital since

the death of her husband, Antonio Terry. The house was filled with an appreciative audience, which gave an enthusiastic reception to a former fan-

favorite. All the Paris papers pronounced her return a success. Miss Sanderson's admirers in the United States will be glad of her new success.

**A Judge on "Common Civility."**

Judges are supposed to know the law better than laymen. When a New Jersey vice chancellor says from the bench that "common civility is the law of the land" common people, unlearned in the laws, will not venture to take issue with him, but they will express their regret that the law of the land is not enforced. There is often a painful lack of the cheapest kind of civility in public offices, at bargain counters, and on street cars. The victims do not seem to have that legal redress which they expect where the law of the land has been violated.

The vice chancellor went on to define "common civility," saying that "one person has no right to speak to another person unless he first gets his consent." People who are bubbling over with questions or views and who wish to open conversation with strangers will please bear this in mind. They should begin operations not by remarking that it is a pleasant day, but by saying, "Have I your consent to talk to you?"

At this point "organized labor" and the vice chancellor part company. These remarks of his were made apropos of a strike in a Paterson silk mill. Non-unionists have taken the place of union workers and the latter have been reasoning with the former, sometimes quite violently, to induce them to quit work. In such a case the vice

chancellor deems it only civil for the man who wishes to do the reasoning to get the consent of the other party.

The lawyer for the strikers asked the court how this consent was to be obtained and was told that his clients could write a letter to the mill-hands asking for leave to argue with them the question of stopping work. This is a delightful suggestion. Nothing could be more dignified than for strikers to write polite notes to those who have taken their jobs, saying to them, "Come, let us reason together." "Organized labor," however, does not agree with the judge on this question of "common civility." If all walking delegates and pickets thought about this matter as he does, controversies between union and non-union labor would be conducted with a degree of politeness and decorum not always found in courts and congresses.

**The Value of a Scrap Heap.**

The enterprising Mr. Yerkes, of Chicago, who is about to tear up a large part of London in his rapid transit schemes, intimates in the latest interview that the English need a rummage sale of some of their present belongings. "I tell you what," he declares with choice Chicago directness, "the trouble with the English concerns is that they don't know the value of a scrap heap."

There is a good deal of truth and philosophy in the observation. America has stepped to leadership on its scrap heaps. The other day, in New York, four million dollars' worth of cable equipment went to the junk shop because electricity was better. Down at League Island there was a scrap heap of old monitors which were hardly valuable even as objects of interest, and if the recent work of the new projectile in smashing the strongest armor plate is continued there will be other scrap heaps of larger vessels, which have cost the government millions of dollars. It has not been many years since the newspapers had to make scrap heaps of their old presses. In fact in every department of effort the scrap heap has been the sign of progress and success. It would be fortunate if men could deal as promptly in their ideas and prejudices as they do in their machinery. The spoils system in politics would make good junk. The excessive tariff protection would look well as a second-class ruin. Some of the present navigation laws might be sacrificed with profit. And there are other things. A government needs scrap heaps as much as a corporation.

In Turkey when the present sultan plays chess even business of state must wait.