

## Reconstruction.

The impassioned member of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies who thrilled his audience with an oration on the resignation of President Diaz observed that General Diaz "had been called to account for his errors by a people who had progressed faster than the author of their progress had realized." If that be true, Diaz has builded better than he knew. Justly, he added that the good General Diaz had done his country would live forever, and outweigh his mistakes.

Now, as the Mexican people under a new regime, face the grave work of reconstruction it remains to be seen whether they can meet the issue better than they met it under Diaz for thirty years and more. The remark has been made that for the first time in thirty years the populace was permitted to shout with impunity the name of its choice for the presidency, and it shouted the name of Madero.

Likewise, it remains to be seen how well these people will improve the opportunity involved in this political liberty. Even Madero by now realizes that the work of destroying the Diaz government was a simple task as compared with that of rebuilding a stable republic, and the revolution's ultimate success is entirely contingent upon this latter achievement. Americans will watch with keen interest the reconstruction process, hoping that the revolutionary leaders are not mistaken in believing that the people of Mexico are capable of as large a measure of popular government as they have demanded.

One impression stands out boldly from all that has transpired in this crisis, and that is General Diaz's unyielding conviction in the integrity of his own official life. His letter of resignation must make this plain to all, and most people will believe in his sincerity as expressed in this closing sentence of that letter, which is itself a strikingly illuminating flash of the forceful character whose official career is at an end.

## Disproportion of Omaha's Wards.

The detailed census of Omaha by wards shows how far the redistribution of population has destroyed the equality of the wards, if there ever was any equality. The third ward is now the smallest in number of inhabitants, reporting 7,768, while the Twelfth ward is the largest, reporting 14,495, or nearly twice as many. On a strictly proportional basis twelve wards, aggregating a population of 124,098, should have each 10,340, so that the Fourth and Sixth wards, with 10,191 and 10,267, respectively, are the only ones that are reasonably approximate to the figure. If we were to continue the ward representation in our city government a redistribution would be almost imperative, but if we are to go to the commission plan of government the wards will lose their significance altogether, except possibly for school board membership.

## A Basis Difference.

The basic difference between democrats and republicans is emphasized by the withdrawal of Senator Martine from the democratic caucus as contrasted with the refusal of Senator La Follette and his associates to participate in the republican caucus. When the vote was taken the other day on the choice of a president of the senate Mr. La Follette declined to recognize the caucus decree, declaring: "I deny the right of any secret caucus held outside of the senate chamber behind closed doors with no reporter present to dispose of the public business, or anything which may exercise an important or controlling influence upon the public business, and I regard the election of a pro tempore president of this great body as of great importance in the conduct of its business."

Republican insurgents, so far as Senator La Follette speaks for them, recognize no obligation whatever to accept caucus decisions.

When, however, the democrats came to caucus on the manner of conducting the Lorimer investigation, Senator Martine finds himself alone in rejecting the caucus yoke, and even in that makes his refusal conditional on the ground that a moral question is involved, the intimation being that in matters of policy, politics and patronage the action of the caucus would be supreme and govern him too.

## Corporations and Public Control.

President Delano of the Wabash railroad is not the only utility corporation man who advocates subjection of these industries to public control, though he takes a very advanced position on it. Theodore N. Vail, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph company, in his last annual report declares:

"Public control or regulation of public service corporations by permanent commissions, has come and come to stay."

Mr. Vail makes the distinction, however, in favor of regulation by commission as preferable to that of legislative enactment, and insists, of course, with propriety, that "such control or regulation can and should stop all abuses of capitalization, of extortion or of overcharges or unreasonable division of profits." He will find the majority of people with him, too, in the theory that government control should protect the investor as well as the public.

Addressing other railroad executives at Chicago, President Delano spoke favorably not only of this control of corporations, but went further and pronounced the recent rate decision as a blessing to them in disguise. As Mr. Vail declares, public control has come to stay, and this kind of influence on the part of men like himself and Mr. Delano will help to make that control fair and equitable.

ble, as it should be to effect its real purpose. A control that throws all its benefits on one side, no matter which side that may be, is not the control that is needed. Like organized labor, organized capital and corporations are as essential to modern business systems as is their restriction within proper bounds, and that fact has to be kept clearly in mind in all plans looking to the regulation of these industries.

## Speed Limits.

In Massachusetts the matter of speed limits for automobiles is left entirely to the jury in each case that comes up for trial. It is a sort of "rule of reason" law they go by, without having any fixed statute on the subject, and they claim to get satisfactory results. For instance, when a motorist is brought up for trial he is judged by the court and jury, all the circumstances of his speeding—the street, the condition of traffic and the possibility of danger—are taken into account and the judgment is fixed accordingly. If he was running his machine at an excessive rate of speed on a street densely traveled, where it is easily possible to do damage, he is dealt with rather severely, but he may have made the same, or even greater, speed on another street, where traffic is light, without incurring any penalty.

This distinction is not without foundation. At any rate, it does seem that greater restrictions should surround the running of a machine on a busy downtown thoroughfare than on one out in the residence districts, where there is little or no traffic. That is exactly the theory of the law which distinguishes between the limits fixed for country and urban thoroughfares. It is far easier to determine on what street a machine was running than it is to decide at what speed it was moving. Yet, to be sure, in most cities where automobile accidents have happened some of them have happened on outside streets, where business traffic is not heavy. Children in cities play on the streets. Sometimes they have to, and this has to be taken into consideration. Nevertheless, autos should not be allowed to run as fast in danger spots as in other parts.

## Straight From the Shoulder.

Governor Aldrich's letter telling County Attorney English what he expects him to do toward the enforcement of the Albert law is straight from the shoulder. It is this characteristic plain-spokenness that commands admiration for the governor. He informs the county attorney in language that cannot be misunderstood that it is up to him to do something to prove his good faith, and that no attempt to shift responsibility to the chief of police in Omaha, or to anyone else, will be accepted as a valid excuse for inaction. If the county attorney does not promptly make a conscientious attempt to enforce the Albert law, Governor Aldrich announces his intention to take steps to secure a county attorney who will.

Everybody knows that the county attorney is the prosecuting officer charged with enforcement of the criminal statutes. But here in Douglas county the county attorney has so far succeeded in having the chief of police bear the brunt of every law-enforcing movement, while he has slipped along unnoticed. If the Sackett law has any virtue in it, it can be invoked against a county attorney wilfully failing or refusing to enforce the law, and particularly in the case of this Albert law, which specifically imposes on the county attorney the duty to close disorderly places on the strength of common report, placing the burden of proof, or rather disproof, on the other side.

Governor Aldrich has given County Attorney English an ultimatum, and it is reasonable to expect that it will produce results.

In appointing the president of the Omaha Woman's club to membership on the state board in control of the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind, Governor Aldrich has struck a new departure that is not only a fine compliment to the women, but should also bring to the management of those institutions a valuable service. It is the good fortune of the Woman's club that it has as its president a woman possessing the necessary qualifications that make it desirable to draft her for this important work.

The law making the county surveyor highway commissioner has been put up to the courts. We might as well know now as later whether this law, which was part of the legislation demanded by the good roads movement, means anything. It is certainly a fine spectacle to see a democratic county board trying to knock out a law pointed to with pride as one of the great achievements of the democratic legislature.

For a starter Omaha's municipal parade is entitled to a passing mark. It is a pity, though, that more people could not have witnessed it, especially more people from out of town. A municipal parade pulled off during Ak-Sar-Ben week might open the eyes of thousands of strangers from other parts of the state who have no adequate conception of the varied extent and ramifications of city government in the metropolis.

Senator Jonathan Bourne, Jr., is quoted as saying that he would rather be defeated for re-election in Oregon than see Senator Norris Brown retained

in Nebraska. If that is the case, why not elect Senator Brown from Oregon?

If most of our Americans who go abroad every summer would first take a run over their own country they might be able to tell their European friends something about the land they live in.

The latest donations to colleges by the general educational board involves a gift of \$400,000, conditioned on the colleges raising \$1,225,000. The condition, no doubt, is to keep all talent out.

## Struggle for the Rewards.

Philadelphia Bulletin.  
The chief difficulty in reconstruction in Mexico seems to be in finding civil jobs for all the generals who have been drawing much glory and less pay in the army.

## Damages at Face Value.

Baltimore American.  
The supreme court has just decided that a woman has a sole right to her own beauty for exhibition purposes. Consequently, anybody or concern that exhibits her person without her consent must pay damages at her face value.

## A Matter of Comparison.

Chicago Record-Herald.  
Tom Johnson, the street railway magnate, who "died poor," left an estate valued at \$135,000. Wealth is, after all, a mere matter of comparison. If Tom Johnson had been a poet and had left an estate worth \$135,000 he would have died rich.

## Looks Like a Cliché.

Minneapolis Journal.  
Fortunately for those who are looking for ways around the letter of the law, Justice Harlan is in the minority. The justice said recently: "Now, it is laid down in some of the cases, and it is common sense, that this court is bound to know what everybody else in the community knows."

## Chicago Files a Kick.

Chicago News.  
Cheerful real estate brokers are offering the president summer homes in various places. When this nation needs a summer capital it will pick one out on its merits and pay for the accommodations required. It is the political national convention, not the government of the United States, that moves around at the call of the highest bidder.

## Profitable, If Not Popular.

Springfield Republican.  
"Dollar diplomacy" in the last three years, according to the assertion of the State department, has won \$300,000,000 worth of foreign business, loans and concessions for American interests. But that sort of thing will never make an administration truly popular. It's the "Pardner's alive or Ratsul dead" diplomacy that starts the cheering.

## This Looks Like the Limit.

Boston Transcript.  
So the high price of beef is due to the growth of women's clubs in the view of the president of the International Live Stock association, his theory being that, detained late in the afternoon at their clubs and anxious to have dinner ready on time, women choose "the meat of least resistance." And yet we have not remarked any startling advance in the cost of hamburger steak.

## The Bread That Mother Made.

St. Louis Republic.  
When the machinery of a steam-power bakery can mix a tender devotion with the yeast and can knead the dough with unselfish thoughts of dependent ones and can watch the browning leaves with a clear vision that sees little white teeth taking bite out of slices of them, one of the trade secrets of mother's bakery will have been discovered. But it is to be feared that discovery will be a long time in coming.

## People Talked About



This is the "broth of a by" who raised "Philosophy Doolley" to his pedestal, talked Hennessy to sleep and stretched a smile from Cape Cod to San Pedro, from Manitoba to the gulf. Mr. Dunne still exerts the calm from Mr. Dooley and gets his pleasure among the base ball "fans" of New York.

Washington puts up a strong defense against the charge of being more sinful on Sunday than on week days. Congress does not meet on Sunday.

Governor Harmon of Ohio, during his recent visit to Washington, was pronounced by a statement to be a striking "double" for ex-Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island.

John S. Runnels of Chicago, who succeeds Robert T. Lincoln, is a native of Effingham, N. H., and graduate of Amherst in the class of '06. He was of some prominence in politics and law practice in Iowa before becoming senior counsel for the Pullman company in 1887.

When the charge of beating the custom house was preferred last winter against Duven Bros., importers of art goods in New York, loud protestations of innocence were heard and much indignation let loose. Since then the firm paid into the public treasury \$1,200,000 in settlement of past duties, and on Wednesday last the senior member of the firm entered a plea of guilty and was fined \$15,000.

The organization controlling the political destinies of Philadelphia has produced such a high grade of discipline among the voters of the city that the heart of every patriot on the inside glows with conscious pride at the smoothness of the machine. Last Tuesday the young son of Mayor Heyburn was elected to a vacant seat in congress and a loan of \$1,500,000 was authorized. Father and son are doing quite well.

Miss Phoebe Consens, for fifty years a leader in the uplift of women, is reported stranded in a St. Louis hotel, owing to her inability to collect an annuity of \$80 a month. Miss Consens has been heard on the rostrum in Omaha several times and has lectured throughout the country on the various phases of woman rights in past years. She served the unexpired term of her father as United States marshal of Missouri.

Tara Down the Light.  
Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
A number of gentlemen object to having the Sherman anti-trust law construed "in the light of reason." They want some other and less trying light employed.

## In Other Lands

### Side Lights on What is Transpiring Among the West and Far Nations of the Earth

Rival religious denominations in Europe which showed more joy than sympathy when Catholicism was stricken in France are beginning to realize that "an injury to one is an injury to all." Separation and conversion in France, instead of increasing opportunities for Protestant sects, has restricted their operations as well as the activities of the Catholic church and swelled the multitude of unbelievers. Similar conditions are developing in the young "republic" of Portugal. The new law for the separation of church and state is shaped to fulfill Honor Costa's boast of "no God and no religion in Portugal." The law strikes at all denominations and makes the state both master and manager of religious methods and property. All present possessions are appropriated by the state, and all future acquisitions go into possession of the state in ninety-nine years. All gifts to churches are to be handled by parish commissioners, about one-third going to the church, the balance to be disbursed as the state directs. Many Catholic orders are to be abolished and others reduced. Priests and bishops are invited to marry, the state offering pensions to their wives and children. In dealing a death blow to the native Roman Catholic church it strikes the English mission churches with equal force by making services after sundown unlawful, expropriating their property and requiring one-third of their revenue to be paid to the state. The French separation law is a measure of extreme mildness compared with the destructive anarchism of Portugal's ruling corte, whose policies and professions constitute a libel on republicanism.

Preaching economy for others to practice is a perilous policy for politicians seeking election. The lord mayor of Dublin, the Hon. John J. Farrell, can give expert testimony on the folly of public economy applied to the preacher. When a mere adherent of the city a few years ago, he leaped into the spotlight by advocating a reduction of the mayor's salary from \$15,000 to \$5,000 a year. He insisted that the salary was too large and that the municipality had no right to squander in this extravagant fashion the money that ought to go to the poor and the needy. His zeal for the poor and plain people catapulted him into a seat in Parliament and a year later he was chosen lord mayor of Dublin, being inaugurated March 1st, last. The Tories and Sinn Feiners among the aldermen remembered Mr. Farrell's preachments for economy and screamed with joy. When Tories and Sinn Feiners go into cahoots in political dead trouble in the nationalistic camp is a dead certainty. Mr. Farrell realized it when the combine quoted his speeches in favor of reducing the mayor's salary. He could not protest against his own past, nor ask his supporters to spare him the pain of putting into practice what he preached. There was nothing to do but silently watch the slashing of the salary to \$5,000 per year. As a result of economy sent home to roost, Lord Mayor Farrell announces that he cannot afford to occupy the mansion house, and will strive to live in his own modest home on the "playhouse salary" intended for the fellow.

Captain Montague Parker, leader of the syndicate of excavators recently operating in the vicinity of the Mosque of Omar, near Jerusalem, discredits the reports of looting the sacred institution. According to his statement, the London Times has no basis for its charge that the excavators of the expedition were to find the tomb of David and Solomon and any Hebrew writing that existed of that period. Nothing of value was found. The excavators cleaned the tunnel of Sion as far as the Pool of Silwan, a distance of 150 feet, increasing the flow of water 50 per cent. The tunnel was found to be four and one-half feet in diameter, and all but a foot of it was filled with mud. The spot where stood the city of David was definitely located, and from the pottery there discovered the conclusion is drawn that Jebusite city existed 2,000 years before David captured it. Mr. Parker asserts that the work of excavating will be resumed in August. This is not likely if reports from Jerusalem are to be credited. A British correspondent at that point states that the religious fanaticism aroused by the reports of alleged looting of the Omar mosque served the double purpose of discrediting the present government of Turkey which permitted the excavation, and aroused Mohammedanism to a pitch dangerous to the presence of Christians. A renewal of the syndicate's operations would be a signal for an outbreak of fanatic fury which the government would not risk.

At the rate the British budget is growing annually it is predicted that it will reach the \$1,000,000,000 mark in three years. The Lloyd George budget for the present year calls for \$905,176,000, an increase of \$38,750,000 over last year. In 1909 the actual expenditures of the United Kingdom was \$11,000,000. In 1909 it had risen but slightly, the total being \$400,000,000. Ten years later the Boer war carried the total up to \$600,000,000. Since then each succeeding year swelled the figures, and there is no prospect of a check. Social reform, military and naval expenditures, is costing the imperial government side directly in education and the grants in that direction must increase from time to time, as the educational system develops. All the modern reform projects for town planning, housing, and the like, require money, and in Great Britain the imperial government usually shares in the expense. It possesses the main sources of revenue; it must, therefore, help to pay the bills. If Ireland should get home rule, the Irish would want generous financial assistance in beginning their experiment. The army, meanwhile, is costing more and more, while the ever-growing navy can have the kingdom's last dollar whenever the need arises. If the budget ten years from now does not show an annual expenditure of \$1,500,000,000 it will be because some disaster had struck the country.

The American municipal policy of annexing suburbs to the parent city looks good to Berlin. The Prussian Diet has recently passed the Greater Berlin bill by which the capital of the German empire leaps into the third rank among the cities of the world. Before consolidation with the suburbs it stood sixth. London and New York are still far ahead of it, but it has passed Paris, Tokyo and Chicago. The newer Berlin will have a population of about 3,600,000—an increase of nearly 60 per cent over the population of the older city. Paris has now about 2,000,000 inhabitants, while Tokyo, Chicago and Vienna are a little over the \$200,000 mark. The figures of the London census of 1911 are not yet out, but trustworthy estimates indicate that the total for the British capital is over 7,500,000.

Tara Down the Light.  
Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
A number of gentlemen object to having the Sherman anti-trust law construed "in the light of reason." They want some other and less trying light employed.

## EDITORIAL SNAPSHOTS.

Washington Post: The fellow who invented the lawn mower died the other day, and may the Lord help him if he should run across any of his victims on the other side!

Cleveland Plain Dealer: That captain of the Celtic who reports seeing the wreck of Water William's dirigible lost the chance of his life. What a serpent bite that famous equilibrator would have furnished!

St. Paul Pioneer Press: Just as a hint of the changes that have taken place in political conditions, here it is almost June 1 and no one has thought to inquire about the whereabouts of Alton B. Parker or the condition of the swimming hole at Deepus.

Louisville Courier-Journal: Strangely enough, the promoters of that movement in Chicago to offer a prize of \$50,000 for a national anthem are not convinced that our national spirit is fittingly set forth in "If You Ain't Got No Money You Needn't Come Around."

Wall Street Journal: Wonderful mental grasp of our statesmen is shown by the fact that the steel men, to testify at Washington have devoted their lives to a hard industry, while the congressmen who will conduct the examination need only ten days' preparation for the task.

## ARMY RESERVE CORPS.

### General Wood's Plan and the Terms of Enlistment.

New York Sun.  
General Leonard Wood's opinion that it would be a mistake to increase the term of enlistment in the army from three to five years, as proposed in the Hay bill, is shared by many officers in close touch with the enlisted man.

A long term works well in England, where a career is made of service in the army, for the reason chiefly that civil life offers few better opportunities to the private soldier. If a five year term were substituted for the present term of enlistment in the United States there would be a marked and alarming increase in desertions. Not even the rigorous methods adopted by the adjutant general would keep the discontented ones in the army. The service would naturally fall into discredit when the authorities would even reduce the present three year term to two, and the argument in its favor is by no means contemptible.

Whether General Wood's plan to form a reserve corps by persuading soldiers at the expiration of the three years term of enlistment to hold themselves in readiness to be called to the colors for the consideration of two dollars a month is practicable or desirable may be doubted. If we understand him he would not encourage re-enlistment, deeming it of more importance to create gradually a reserve corps. But it is the experienced soldiers in the army who are of the most value, men of at least two enlistments. The long term in England makes excellent fighting men and capable noncommissioned officers. The reserve corps should be encouraged. Let the reserve corps consist of men who do not want to stay in the army. Moreover, the difficulty of obtaining recruits is to be considered. There are slack seasons when it is impossible to fill the ranks.

Three years' soldiering in time of peace does not make a lasting impression upon a man. An ex-soldier before long would rate below a National Guardsman in effectiveness. It may be doubted, too, whether for two dollars a month most of the reservists would appear for the biennial drill which General Wood recommends. Unless the country is prepared to spend a considerable sum of money on a reserve corps upon a more ambitious plan than that proposed, it is submitted that it would be better to place entire dependence upon the national guard. With closer contact with the regular army it is increasing steadily in soldierly value.

## "GRANDFATHER" LAW.

### Ruling of Lower Court Opens Way for an Appeal.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.  
The decision of the federal district court declaring the "grandfather clause" of the Oklahoma constitution invalid is important in that it paves the way for a final decision by the supreme court of the United States on the form of laws and constitutional provisions that are very generally used in the south for the purpose of disfranchising the negro. While most of the southern states have such laws, the question has never been brought squarely to issue before the supreme court of the United States. The highest judicial tribunal has had the question before it several times, but not in a form that brought the question fairly to test and, as a result, no direct decision has been rendered on the right of states to pass such enactments, in violation, if not in direct violation of the fifteenth amendment.

Under the provision of the Oklahoma constitution, the educational test was applied only to voters whose ancestors were not entitled to vote on January 1, 1866. The cause worked to the direct disfranchisement of the negroes. The federal court, before which a test case was brought, decided that the provision was a discrimination against the negroes, and a violation of the fifteenth amendment, which declared that the right of franchise shall not be denied to any person because of "race, color or previous condition of servitude."

The equivalent of the "grandfather clause" is embodied in the laws of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana and other southern states. The effect of these laws is to prevent the negro from voting. As the Oklahoma case will be taken to the supreme court of the United States, the final decision of that body will be awaited with interest because of its ultimate effect upon the political conditions throughout the south.

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## SUNNY GEMS.

Mrs. Doty (reprovingly)—Mrs. Enneke told me today that her husband always keeps her photograph on his office desk.  
Mr. Doty—I don't think that explains why he is always late getting home to dinner—Puck.

"If a man can eat well and sleep well he may consider himself lucky, no matter what the condition in life may be."  
"Is that what I used to be turned in a jail, and some of the men we had locked up were the best eaters and sleepers I ever saw in my life."—Washington Star.

If you want money, go to strangers; if you want advice, go to friends; if you want nothing, go to relations.—Lippincott's Magazine.

"How come Jukes to leave home the way he did?"  
"His wife told him that she had made up her mind it was time for sweeping reforms."  
"Then he dusted."—Baltimore American.

"That city girl started the staid village people with her mad pranks. She certainly is a live wire."  
"It's all right. I've never expected to use him more than once."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Well, Hawkins, old man," said Wither, "has your wife decided where she will spend the summer?"  
"Yep," said Hawkins. "She's going to go abroad."  
"So? And how about you?"  
"Well, I don't know yet," sighed Hawkins. "I've decided to stay in town or go into bankruptcy."—Harper's Weekly.

## TRANSFORMATION.

Washington Star.  
Do you recollect how the world went wrong?  
"Way back in the years gone by."  
How the toll was rough and the day was long.  
When fortune went off awry?  
It all came back as a first-rate joke.  
And you laugh as you wouldn't have done.  
To laugh on that day when you went dead broke.  
And you were hungry a bit and scared.  
Do you recollect how we used to scold  
At the summons in sultry lands?  
And the things we said of the winter's cold.  
We're enough to shock all hands.  
Now we laugh again at our futile fret  
O'er the advent of those who will not regret.  
And we call them "jarks," and we'd half regret  
To lack the experience.

We are fruitful still as we onward strive,  
And we think that the present grief  
Is one of the sort that must surely thrive,  
Secure against time's relief.  
But the tears go on in their ceaseless grind,  
With hours that are gay or grim,  
And the blight of life you will often find  
Is the laugh of the days to come.



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## The Best Selling Book in America

As reported by the Bookman of the U. S. for the month from April 1 to May 1