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ESTABLISHED 1855

MR. SPEAKER GILLETT

Friendly Appraisal of High Public Official

STANDS WELL WITH BOTH PARTIES

Massachusetts Congressman Has Seen Long Service in the House, and is Generally Considered to be a Careful and Considerate Legislator.

Literary Digest.

As a speaker of the house of representatives has so many opportunities for making himself unpopular, especially with the minority members, it is well for Frederick H. Gillett of Massachusetts that he takes the perilous path with the hearty approbation of both political friends and opponents. The Springfield Republican, which is not altogether in sympathy with Mr. Gillett's political colleagues, nevertheless, with justifiable pride in the triumph of an able man from its own home town, declares that—

The success of Mr. Gillett is inspiring, also, for the reason that it is the proper reward of long and faithful service. He plodded along in the house for over two decades, without gaining the pre-eminence which was won by some of his Massachusetts colleagues who entered the house later than he did. Fortune is capricious in bestowing her prizes, yet in this case one sees a man suddenly come to the front and find the door open to his greatest usefulness and power long after most politicians had dismissed him from their minds as a serious contender for the highest congressional honors. Circumstances at that time have favored him, of course, but no one ever gets anywhere with circumstances dead against him.

That Mr. Gillett's term as speaker will be most successful is the wish of all his constituents, and trained capacity for public affairs. To New England as a whole his elevation is significant of the larger influence of this section in Washington. One must go back to Robert C. Winthrop and General Banks before the Civil war to find other Massachusetts men in the speaker's chair; while since the Civil war only the parliamentary giants, Blaine and Reed, of Maine, have been able to attain such eminence. In their company on the scroll of congressional fame is Mr. Gillett now elevated.

Summing up the career of the new nominee for the speakership, the Republican says further:—

Frederick Huntington Gillett, who is to be the next speaker of the house, was born October 16, 1851, in Westfield, and was named after Bishop F. D. Huntington, of Syracuse, N. Y., and Hadley, a classmate of his honored father, E. B. Gillett, at Amherst college. His mother was a daughter of James Fowler, a prominent citizen of Westfield. He fitted for college in the Westfield schools and was graduated from Amherst in the class of 1874 and from the Harvard law school in 1877. Previous to his college course, he spent a year in study and travel abroad, chiefly in Germany. His father, one of the ablest lawyers and most polished men of his time in western Massachusetts, took a deep interest in his education and early developed in the young man the talent for graceful oratory and felicitous expression inherited from himself; and there could hardly have been a better master in these arts.

F. H. Gillett began the practice of law in Springfield in partnership with Judge E. B. Maynard, and promptly exhibited an interest in politics, taking part in the state campaigns of 1878 as a speaker at various rallies. He was first elected to congress in 1892, and has represented his district continuously ever since. He has now had thirteen continuous terms in the house. Thus, the Republican, quoting an article published in its own columns in September, 1917, when, in consequence of the illness of James R. Mann, Mr. Gillett became floor leader of the then minority party, adds:

He is the dean of all New England representatives. Indeed, he is almost the dean of the Republican party in the national house. Ex-Speaker Joseph G. Cannon has had twenty-one years in the house, but these were not continuous. His constituents left him home in the middle of the Harrison administration and again at the beginning of the first Wilson administration.

Consequently Mr. Gillett has held a continuous commission in the house longer than ex-Speaker Cannon ever did. His service in that regard is exceeded only by Representative William A. Jones, a Democrat, from the eastern part of Virginia. But Mr. Gillett has one all-fledged competitor in Hendrick Allen Cooper, the Wisconsin radical, who came to congress at the same time as he and has remained there constantly. Speaker Champ Clark has but twelve terms, and those have not been continuous, although he entered the house at the same time as Representative Gillett.

The New York Times also expresses its approval of the majority's choice, as follows:

For once a great party has put its best foot forward in the nomination of a candidate for one of the nation's highest offices. Frederick H. Gillett, who will be the next speaker, is not only a good man, or the right man to elect, but he is conspicuously fitted for the place above all his competitors. That seldom happens in a country where compromises so often rule elections and nomination. Usually, as between the best and the worst, the parties compromise by choosing neither very good nor very bad. But Mr. Gillett, alert, experienced, broad-minded, and yet no maverick, stood out over all the honest patriots, stood out over all the others, and even, it may be said, over those who might have been put forward, but were not.

Mr. Gillett is himself quoted as saying upon his nomination: "I have reached the goal of my ambition, a happiness which I suppose comes to few men. My ambition will now be to establish harmonious co-operation among all Republicans that we may cope successfully with the prodigious problems of the coming session." The papers of his own party

naturally assume, like the New York Sun, that the new leader is "going to represent the Republican idea of the right man in the right place," and will also "epitomize the Republican slogan for 1920," which we learn, is "straight 100 per cent Americanism, free from fads and crusades and backed up by patriotism, efficiency and common sense." The Sun thus describes his personality:

Meeting Mr. Gillett, one finds a man slender, of medium stature, with closely cropped beard and clear blue eyes. Always courteous and often smiling, the personality and voice blend to make up an impression distinctly pleasing. You feel he would be interesting on any subject at any time without sign of self-consciousness.

Although senior member of the house in point of service and sixty-seven years of age, Mr. Gillett does not impress one as an elderly man. A casual caller at his office would find him down at forty-five or fifty. He is physically his beard is not gray, and he gives rather the impression of being in the prime of life.

Dwelling upon the new speaker's future methods, as they may be indicated by his career and disposition, the same paper asserts that—

Mr. Gillett will not resort to spectacular, brass-band means nor uncalculated abuse of political opponents. He will rely on facts and figures and the common sense of the American people. He believes in scrupulous fairness and candor, but at the same time he will not resort to unscrupulous and exclusive argument in driving his facts home. As a debater Mr. Gillett, despite his mild manner, has already established a reputation which is appreciated, particularly on the Democratic side of the chamber.

To illustrate Mr. Gillett's ability as a debater and his fairness to his opponents, the Sun reprints several anecdotes, saying:

Although his speeches generally are prepared very carefully and he avoids taking part in discussion except when he deems it necessary, Mr. Gillett can mix matters with the best of the extemporaneous speakers. Following the president's appeal for a Democratic congress, certain Democrats sought to make it appear that the speaker hoped for a Republican victory. This drew the Gillett fire.

"Do you think that he (the Kaiser) knows whom he has most to fear?" he asked.

"Will he think it is favorable to him if the next house is controlled by the party of Roosevelt and Wood and Gardner, by the party of La Guardia and Heinz and Johnson, who left their seats here to try to put bullets into his well protected sons?"

Responding to charges of partisanship on the Republican side, Gillett said:

"I believe there never has been a time when a strong minority, almost equal in numbers to the majority, has so suppressed partisanship and criticism and so effaced its organization of whole-hearted support of its political opponents."

Rare, classical bits of irony and humor sparkle occasionally from Mr. Gillett's debate on the floor. Speaking on corrupt practices recently, he said:

"Everybody here—at least, almost everybody—is against the purchasing of votes."

Mr. Gillett made an excellent impression on his conferees in the house on September 27 last with regard to reporting that he had said Champ Clark had voted against the war-declaration. Speaker Clark's friends were incensed. Gillett should say something to correct this impression, they asserted, or if he does not want to embarrass his party he should at least tell the newspaper men to correct it.

"Don't worry," one of Gillett's friends said, "if any misstatement has been made Gillett won't hesitate to have it corrected. I've seen him play golf. He's a good loser."

"Mr. Speaker," Gillett said, rising on this occasion, "in some of the press reports of some remarks which I made last Saturday it was stated that the speaker, Mr. Clark, had voted against the declaration of war—"

Here comes the apology, the newspaper men thought, and they could themselves complete it along the well-worn lines of "the newspapers made a mistake, it was their fault, I was mistaken, etc., etc."

Continuing, Mr. Gillett said: "It was my fault. I am sorry as he did not vote against the declaration of war, I wish to state the fact here publicly."

"I think anybody who heard my whole speech or read it in the Record will appreciate the fact that I made no reflection at all upon the loyalty and patriotism of any member of the house, least of all against the speaker, who has given to the service of the country a life which he values more than his own."

Perhaps the best example of Mr. Gillett's cutting irony is found in a little speech he made back in 1914, when William Jennings Bryan was the chief member of President Wilson's cabinet and was being made the recipient of fulsome praise from members of the official family.

"I do not, of course, forget the notable eulogium pronounced in his presence by the secretary of the navy (Mr. Daniels)," Mr. Gillett said, "and published by the press, wherein he was described as the greatest secretary of state since Jefferson, but I think it is much an index of the discretion of the secretary of the navy, who spoke, and the receptivity for adulation of the secretary of state, who listened, than any impairment of the prestige of Madison, Adams, Webster, and many others."

There was something about Bryan's lecturing for money while a member of the cabinet that did not comport with Mr. Gillett's feeling of propriety or his conception of national dignity.

"I do not like to believe that he (Mr. Bryan) is following Byron's precept," he said:

"For a good old-gentlemanly vice, 'I think I must take up with avarice.'"

Forecasting Mr. Gillett's attitude on public questions, the Sun holds that as "a good Yankee," he believes in economy; and as "no member of appropriations," he is sure to be an able opponent of reckless extravagance. Further, we learn:

In matters of foreign policy Mr. Gil-

lett, like Senator Lodge, believes that politics stop at the water's edge. He was heart and soul for the Wilson administration, mistakes or no mistakes, during the heat of the world-war. But now that the war is over he feels that common sense judgment should assert itself and that free and open discussion should prevail. Eloquent phrases created the request that he express himself on the president's league of nations scheme to perpetuate everlasting peace.

Turning to safer, because non-controversial and non-speculative, matters, the Sun concludes:

Incidentally Mr. Gillett is a good golfer and some say he is the best golfer in congress. He drives straight and plays the game with the same care that he devotes to preparing speeches. Three years ago Mr. Gillett was married to Mrs. Christine Rice Hoar, widow of Congressman Rockwood Hoar. He maintains a home in Washington on Eighteenth street, and devotes such time as he can to the comforts and blessings of home life. But these are busy days, and frequently Mr. Gillett is busy at his office until late in the evening. Work and plenty of it has no terrors for him.

GERMANY'S COTTON SUPPLY.

Country Needs Nearly Half of Present Crop to Make up Shortage.

Germany's cotton shortage is estimated to be 4,600,000 bales of 500 pounds each in dispatches based on the opinion of European experts and made public in Washington Thursday.

When Germany began hostilities in 1914 the country had on hand only about 500,000 bales of raw and manufactured cotton, a supply sufficient for two or three months. The pre-war assumption had been 2,000,000 bales annually, much of which was exported, but the cessation of exports was fully offset by military needs, so that the country's requirements were not lessened. The stocks on hand were supplemented to the extent of 1,200,000 bales by seizures in invaded districts.

Many expedients were described as having been used by the central powers to obtain the staple through neutral countries, and in the first three years "reasonably large quantities of cotton goods" were imported in that way. German sources estimate that 700,000 bales were purchased from the United States, Scandinavia, Holland, 175,000 bales from Switzerland before the blockade was made entirely effective, up to the end of 1917. The amount obtained in 1918 was not known.

A total of 1,000,000 bales also were acquired in Asia Minor and Russian Turkestan. Cotton purchased by German interests, which were unable to import it from neutral countries, is estimated at 260,000 bales, of which 700,000 bales are stored in Scandinavia, Holland and Spain, and 60,000 bales in Switzerland.

Substitutes for cotton, made from paper, netting, etc., were not very successful, and only 10 per cent of Germany's normal domestic cotton consumption was met in that way, according to the estimates, or about 600,000 bales in three years.

Based on the above information it was estimated that Germany's average need of 8,000,000 bales in four years, only 3,500,000 bales had been supplied.

In determining the cotton ration to be supplied Germany, it was pointed out the loss of Alsace and Lorraine must be taken into consideration. Those provinces included 25 per cent of the spindle and loom capacity of the country, so that the annual requirements have been reduced to perhaps 1,500,000 bales. "Virtually all factories were said to be in great need of repairs and a loss of three or four months' working time was estimated to be necessary to put the machinery, injured by working on substitutes, in good condition."

The report pointed out that if Germany demanded that the shortage be made up, she would be asking in effect for one-fourth of the world's annual production of 20,000,000 bales.

STEEL PRICES REDUCED.

Manufacturers Forego Part of Big War Profits.

Complete schedules of prices for steel and iron products agreed upon by representatives of the steel industry and the industrial board of the department of commerce were announced Friday after members of the board had conferred with Attorney General Palmer. The announcement of the new prices, following the conference, was taken as an indication of the board's efforts to reduce and stabilize prices through agreement with opposition from the department of justice.

Steel men, who in joint conference with the board framed the new schedule, said it was understood the question of price agreements was to be laid before the attorney general by the board. Chairman Peck, of the board, however, after the visit to Mr. Palmer's office, said the board had merely held a social call on the new attorney general.

The new prices, which generally represent reductions from 10 to 14 per cent, become effective at once for efforts of the industrial board at price stabilization and reduction to a peace-time basis. In approving the schedules submitted by the steel men, the department, according to a statement issued tonight, adopted a policy to be followed in agreements with producers of other basic commodities. This policy, it was said, is to strike a balance that "while calling sooner or later for some sacrifice or adjustments on the part of all, yet will not subject any of intense interest to undue hardships."

Judge E. H. Gary, of the United States steel corporation, chairman of the committee representing the American iron and steel institute, which conferred with the board, in a statement containing the announcement of the new prices, said the new rates were agreed upon with a view to bringing about a revival and stabilization of business through prices favorable to the consuming public and yet yielding a moderate and reasonable return to investors in the industry, he expresses the belief the new prices would not disturb wage rates or interfere with wage agreements.

FLIGHT ACROSS ATLANTIC

The First Successful Trip Is Now Imminent

NATIONS COMPETE FOR DISTINCTION

It is a Matter of Chance as to Whether America, England, France, Italy or Germany Will Win, and It is also a Toss Up as to Whether It Will Be Airplane or Airship.

The projected flight from Senegambia, Africa, to Brazil, South America, has been arrested by a breakdown of the machinery of Lieutenant Fontan's Caedron. This means simply postponement, and the attempt to cross the South Atlantic is almost certain to be made shortly. To those in northern climes this will lack something, even if successful, of the full achievement. A trans-Atlantic flight, to the great majority of the people of the northern hemisphere, means the passage between some point in North America and some point in Europe, or an air voyage between these continents over the great routes of trans-Atlantic ocean traffic. Still, Lieutenant Fontan's success would take some of the spice out of the desired accomplishment, at the least. It would be the first flight between the eastern and western hemispheres, and all later successful ones, no matter how much nearer the popular ideal in achievement, would call for a little note of explanation.

The first steamship voyage was made between Savannah and Liverpool. The first Atlantic cable was laid between Ireland and Newfoundland. It has long been a fond expectation that the first trans-Atlantic flight would follow either the line of the great eastern or the wake of the modern ocean greyhound, between Liverpool and New York, whether westward or eastward bound.

It is known that Great Britain has now, and practically ready for flying, three over-ocean-going airships. The latest of these is the R-30, now receiving some final attention in the aerodrome at Barrow-in-Furness. This is a rigid machine and is said to be the last word in aerial construction. A detailed description of the craft reveals how far ahead even of popular imagination the construction of airships has gone. The hull is of steam-line shape, and is equipped with three bow mooring attachments, which enable the ship to be moored out from a pier, to turn in any direction and lie with the wind, as an anchored steamship amidstream might swing and lie with the tide. Four cars are attached to the hull, a control car forward, a passenger car, and two wing cars for machinery. The control car is large enough to accommodate all navigating controls, instruments, and navigating crews. There is also a special type of buffer bag and buoyant covering fitting to the forward car and to each of the machinery cars. These will enable the airship to float on water, and they become shock absorbers in the event of landing. In every other respect the R-30 is a masterpiece of the art of recent invention, and the vessel, when she puts forth upon her maiden voyage, will apparently be as thoroughly equipped as the latest floating palace from the yards of Belfast or the Clyde.

The vessel is only of a trio likely to speed across the ocean from England early this summer. Announcement has already been made of four ocean-going aeroplanes of United States naval construction, all of which are expected to be in commission early in the fall. The first of these is the successful trip over the Atlantic by British airship or aeroplane. So far as the United States and Great Britain are concerned, any rivalry that may be developed in this connection will be entirely friendly, and as much may be said for competition as may later be attempted by France and Italy. It is not believed that either of these latter nations will be prepared to make the trans-Atlantic attempt in aviation early this summer, although it is no secret that both will be ready for the venture, should Great Britain and the United States fail in the enterprise or too long postpone it. It is a matter of knowledge, too, that at Döberitz, Germany, a new large Siemens-Schuckert biplane is now undergoing trials "ostentatiously with the view ultimately of making a bid for the trans-Atlantic record." This machine as designed would, it is estimated, accomplish the flight from Hamburg to New York in twenty hours. Tanks of a capacity of about 750 gallons are fitted on the Siemens-Schuckert machine, and it is calculated by the builder that the total fuel required, amounting to about five times the quantity just mentioned, could be carried by the biplane, which has six engines, with a total of 1,800 horsepower, driving four propellers.

All the indications point to an inauguration of trans-Atlantic aviation service this year, no matter what nation shall be first in the field. All that is necessary for emulation and enterprise in the new realm of aviation is a successful beginning. The multiplicity of aircraft will undoubtedly be much more rapid than was the early multiplication of steamships, a hundred years ago. At the beginning the steamship was a very crude and unsatisfactory affair. The Savannah, the first to cross the Atlantic, would look like a tender alongside a modern ocean-going vessel, and it required twenty-two days for her initial voyage. Aircraft, of all known types, on the other hand, are highly developed. They have performed feats in the air. They have been engaged in night operations and sea. They are products of the most advanced technical schools. They are manned by highly trained navigators. Fully twenty years have been crowded into the experience concerning them since the great war. Successes and failures count alike as assets for their constructors. From the moment that the Wrights were able to sustain a heavier-than-air machine above the earth,

every step, from flights over sandhills to flights over prairies, over rivers, over mountain tops, over the British Channel, over continents, has been in the natural line of development. There were failures all along the way, but every failure was eventually wiped out by a success.

The year 1919 is evidently to mark the beginning of a new era in transportation. Continents and countries will be brought into closer relations by aircraft than they have been by the submarine cable or by radio-telephony. All port laws and customs rules must be revised to meet the new conditions. The Allies have already seen this and are preparing to meet the need. Said Lord Weir, former British air minister, in a recent address in Manchester: "Any adequate survey of the future of civilization must involve an inquiry into the future of transport, and it might well be that transport by air would one day rival and even surpass transport by land and water." That day is probably closer than the wise men of the world suspect.

ARMY CAMP SETTLEMENT.

Fifteen to Be Purchased and Twenty to Be Abandoned.

Decision of the war department to proceed with the purchase of the sites of 15 army camps and 13 aviation flying fields over the country was announced Friday by acting Secretary Crowder. Less than \$15,000,000 will be involved, Mr. Crowder said, and it will not be necessary to await action by congress as the department now has the necessary funds.

With these purchases complete, the army will have 30 training camps, including the original 16 cantonments constituted for the training of the national army, and 19 aviation centers, most of which will be in the south-eastern states, Texas and California. The few fields to be retained in the north will be regarded as summer flying centers only.

Twenty-seven camps and 15 aviation fields will be abandoned. Of the camps already have gone out the abandonment of 20 of the camps, including nearly all of the national guard training centers set up after the United States declared war on Germany. Construction work on the 27 camps, according to war department figures, represents a cost of approximately \$100,000,000 of which \$43,000,000 was spent on the four embarkation cantonments—Mills, New York, and Merritt, New Jersey, and Stuart and Hill, Newport News.

\$28,000,000 Expended.

Approximately \$28,000,000 has been spent in construction work on the 15 cantonments to be bought on the 15 now owned and it was largely because of this that the government purchase. Most of the 30 camps are "bare" used as demobilization centers, but no definite plans for their employment after the war army is disbanded have been evolved. It was explained the whole problem of the future use of the camps depended upon the nation's military policy and no conclusion as to that could be reached until the peace conference at Paris had rendered its decision as to world disarmament.

Announcement already has been made that only two flying fields actually would be used in training army aviators in peace times and others purchased or now owned would become storage plants for material on hand or under contract. Location of the flying centers to be retained shows a plan to have three general training centers, one in the far west, one in the southwestern part of the country and one in the southeast with the different fields in each section close enough together so elementary instruction would be provided in an advanced training area. Total expenditures on the 19 flying and embarkation fields to be retained represent about \$80,000,000.

To Buy and Sell Sevier.

Besides the fields to be bought for military purposes, also will be purchased for "business reasons" and subsequently sold. The same procedure will be followed in the case of Camp Sevier, S. C., which was used as a national guard center. Mr. Crowder said it was cheaper for the government to buy this field at the option price of \$57,940 and sell it again than to pay the damage claims made against the government as the result of the building of the camp.

The total amount spent on Camp Jackson at Columbia has been \$10,000,000. The purchase price, on a basis of options previously taken, will be \$625,000.

Camp Wadsworth, which cost \$1,100,000, is to be abandoned.

CENSUS BUREAU STATISTICS.

Crop of 1918 Aggregates Less Than Twelve Million Bales.

Final statistics on the 1918 cotton crop, announced by the census bureau in its last spinning report last Thursday, place production at 11,888,138 running bales, or 10,222,601 equivalent 500-pound bales both exclusive of linters.

The 1917 crop was 11,248,242 running bales, or 11,302,375 equivalent 500-pound bales. The department of agriculture in December estimated the 1918 crop at 11,700,000 equivalent 500-pound bales.

Included in the 1918 figures are 177,121 bales which ginners estimated would be turned out after the March canvass.

Round bales, counted as half bales in the running bales statistics, numbered 154,000, compared with 159,076 in 1917.

Sea Island bales included are 15,389 compared with 92,619 bales in 1917. Distribution of sea island for 1918 by states was:

Florida, 20,160; Georgia, 21,265; and South Carolina, 9,964.

The average gross weight of bales for the crop, counting round as half bales and excluding linters, is 505.7 pounds, compared with 502.4 pounds for 1917.

Ginners operated numbered 19,249 compared with 20,301 in 1917.

Ginnings of the 1918 crop by states, in equivalent 500-pound bales, were:

Alabama, 800,121; Arizona, 55,560;

Arkansas, 985,319; California, 67,322; Louisiana, 28,242; Georgia, 2,120,690; Mississippi, 586,405; Missouri, 1,225,348; Missouri, 61,516; North Carolina, 895,853; Oklahoma, 576,270; South Carolina, 1,569,900; Tennessee, 329,203; Texas, 2,629,810; Virginia, 24,884; all other states 6,187.

SUGAR BOWL DYNAMITE.

Making from Sweets the Glycerine of High Explosives.

A few cubes of sugar and presto! A shell breaks over the terrain to shiver into fragments which maim and kill! Just a few tablespoons of molasses and science is enabled to blow the gnarled stumps out of the unyielding earth with the same material which makes the farmer wife's gingerbread.

By the direction of Daniel C. Roper, the commissioner of internal revenue of the United States Treasury department, a new process has been perfected for obtaining glycerine from sugar and sweets. The experiments on which the report has been filed were made under the supervision of the chief chemist of the department, A. E. Adam, a member of the American chemical society.

When Dr. Alonzo Taylor was in Germany about two years ago he found that the Teutons had run short of fats from which glycerine is usually made and had raided the sugar bowl. It was on this information that a special laboratory was established in the United States treasury and several experts, including John R. Eoff, W. E. Lindner and B. F. Beyer began the researches into this method of obtaining glycerine.

Pastur, the noted French chemist, had years before discovered that a small quantity of glycerine developed in the fermentation of sugar and that it was traceable in wine and beer. The chemist, therefore, fermented sugars and molasses with yeast and from the mash thus obtained produced the glycerine. The wave of prohibition which is about to sweep the country will not stop the distillation of alcohol for industrial and mechanical purposes and for fuel. There will probably be more alcohol distilled than ever before, but it will be denatured and made absolutely unfit for drinking purposes. The manufacturing chemists of the United States are preparing none the less to produce on a larger scale than ever before, subject to the supervision of the department of internal revenue.

Several large concerns are making alcohol from cheap molasses brought from the West Indies. This molasses, which is unobtainable in this country, is the internal revenue chemists have been able, however, to ferment it to obtain not only alcohol but to so use the molasses.

Four lots of "black strap" of 1,000 gallons each, subjected to the new process turned out a very excellent quantity of glycerine. There are 100 gallons of this clear dynamite glycerine in the treasury department. Samples of it treated with nitric acid by a well-known firm of explosive makers at the request of the government, produced as good a nitroglycerine as the market affords.

Nitroglycerine, when incorporated with pulp or other inert substances, becomes dynamite. Thus out of the simple sweets of the sugar bowl comes forth the strength which will rend the rock.

Now that the war is over the demand for high explosives will not be so great, but at the same time there are many uses to which it can be turned. It is especially valuable for blowing up heavy and clay soils which would otherwise resist the plow of the farmer. Excellent crops are produced from land treated in this way and general shaking up is conducive of the better action of the nitrifying bacteria in the ground.

Lager Beer Manufacturers Will Fight the Law.—The Lager Beer Manufacturers board of New York, representing forty-two brewing concerns, has announced that they will fight the new law which would require the use of 2-3-4 per cent alcohol content. The board of beer manufacturers, which would resume at once sale of beer containing 2-3-4 per cent alcohol content, is forbidden by a ruling of the internal revenue department which interpreted President Wilson's proclamation effective December 1 last.

By representation by the board to Eilhu Root and William D. Guthrie, counsel for the organization, that beer of the alcoholic strength specified was not intoxicating, the attorneys advised the organization that sale of the 2-3-4 per cent product would not be contrary to law.

The opinion held that the internal revenue department had acted without authority in decreeing that sale of beer containing more than one-half of one per cent of alcohol was contrary to the president's proclamation forbidding the use of foodstuffs in brewed products except those which were non-intoxicating.

The brewer's action, anticipating enforcement on May 1 of the regulation limiting use of cereals to "non-intoxicating" products, was taken under the internal revenue ruling permitting until that date, manufacture of 2-3-4 per cent beer, but requiring the product to be de-alcoholized to one-half of one per cent before being shipped for sale from the breweries. As the brewers have been making a 2-3-4 per cent brew since January 30, when the president issued a proclamation permitting the production of "near beer," no change in manufacturing methods will be necessary, it was stated, to carry out the plan decided upon.

Assuming that the government "may summarily attempt to enforce the revenue department's interpretation, Messrs. Root and Guthrie advised the brewers in this event that suit in equity be brought to "enjoin any wrongful interference with your business or arrest of your employees."

Agreeable Coincidence—Creditor.

You couldn't ride around in your fine automobile if you paid your honest debts.

Debtor—That's so. I'm glad you look at it in the same light that I do.

—Boston Transcript.

FAMOUS PALACE OF EDMONT

It Will Probably Be The Home of The League of Nations

IDENTIFIED WITH TRAGIC HISTORY

Records of the Past Recalled in a Manner that Furnishes Interesting Information to Those Who Are Watching Present Events.

"The proposal under consideration by Brussels that the historic Edmont Palace be offered as the permanent home of the league of nations recalls the career of that gallant and ill-fated Count Edmont, once its occupant, who was a conspicuous figure in the sorrowful days of the Spanish Inquisition," says a bulletin just issued by the National Geographic Society.

Edmont's name is inextricably linked with two other heroes of those dark days of the Netherlands, which then included Belgium—the noble William of Nassau, prince of Orange, and the blunt Count Horn.

"Edmont's brilliant victories in the war between Spain and France made him a national hero, but aroused the jealousy of the duke of Alva. Unlabeled but of noble birth, Edmont unwittingly made another dangerous enemy in the learned, but lowly born and sycophantic bishop of Arras, later Cardinal Granvelle.

"It was while the duchess of Parma, often called 'the man in petticoats' more for her mustache, gout, and horsemanship than for any masculine qualities of statesmanship, was regent of the Netherlands that the cruel, fanatical Philip II of Spain instigated the 'holocaust' burning, strangling, and burying alive of heretics in his North Sea domain. This pleasant lady, incidentally, was married to her first husband when she was twelve years old, but only obtained a second by wedding a younger of thirteen.

"Peter Titelman already had been mangling and strangling persons he suspected of heresy, tearing out the tongues of some and roasting others over a slow fire, and a sort of informal union of executioners had adopted fixed rates for torturing, burning, and drowning victims, when Edmont, along with Count Horn and the prince of Orange wrote a joint protest to Cardinal Granvelle. This gave the duke of Alva a pretext to advise Philip to 'rid of all three.

"Brussels merchants of the sixteenth century lived in luxury and entertained sumptuously. So did the noblemen. As a slight exception to meet the 'rising cost of living the prince of Orange, upon one occasion, dismissed 'his expert cooks. At a dinner party where wine flowed freely the hostess made that day be thrown to choose a man who would 'let out his servants in livery to buy the unloved detested cardinal. The unfortunate Edmont appeared in coarse garments of gray, wearing a fool's-cap on his sleeves. Hence the famous 'fool's-cap livery' which nobles soon donned.

"Philip was compelled to remove the cardinal. A trip was the pretext for his going. Brussels citizens displayed a wit similar to that which the Belgians annoyed the slow-witted German garrisons in 1915, by putting on the Cardinal's palace a sign, 'For Sale Immediately.'

"Against William's advice Edmont was sent on a mission to Spain to 'protest against the frightful violence.' The simple-minded envoy was dazzled by the rosy assurance of the crafty Philip and returned proudly bearing sealed instructions which turned out to be the orders for even more drastic persecutions.

"Edmont was at the wedding of Alexander, prince of Parma, when a covenant, also disapproved by William, was made in further protest against the 'barbarous and violent inquisition.' During a subsequent discussion of the envoy to Spain the peevishness of the king was referred to as beggars. Count Brederode, the Patrick Henry of that period, sounded the slogan, 'Long live the beggars.' Again Edmont appeared inopportunely and, with William and Horn, had to drink the toast which became a revolutionary war cry and suggested the distinctive costumes which fastened upon the confederates their historical nickname of the 'beggars.'

"The clear thinking Prince William saw the time for resistance had come. Edmont, Horn and others persisted in 'seeking succor' from Philip. William left the Netherlands, returning to fight gloriously another day. Edmont stayed and his sincere, but misguided, loyalty cost him his head.

"When the duke of Alva was dispatched to the Netherlands with an armed force—and with the muskets which were a novelty—Edmont warned to flee. Letters from Philip and presents from Alva again tricked and duped Edmont. Horn and others were duped. Edmont received his last warning from a son of the duke, 'when he home he was dining. But he persisted in his blind trust, accepted an invitation to Alva's house, and was thrown in prison.

Meanwhile the infamous Council of Blood had been set up. Vargas was looking after the wholesale butcheries, the 'droptical Hessels was snoring at the trials, occasionally aroused by a nod from an attendant, and crying nudge from another. Edmont was mechanically 'to the gibbet' and 'off again, while the ingenuity of Alva's parasites had devised the execution by putting victims' tongues into rings, then scorching them, and counseling them not to talk with friends while they awaited the worst executions.

"The most atrocious of all Inquisition decrees, practically condemning three million Netherlands to death, was issued Feb. 16, 1568. Five months later Edmont was led to the guillotine at Brussels Square, and the promise he had given to Alva was fulfilled. Amid thousands of his countrymen assembled in this Spanish holiday, Edmont was led to the platform, reciting a Psalm, and, as he knelt down to pray, an executioner struck off his head with a single swift stroke.

"Count Horn's execution followed. The heads of the two nobles were mounted on spears for the crowd to see. When the soldiers went away the citizens dipped their handkerchiefs in the blood to be kept as tokens of vengeance."

ABOUT SLEEPING SICKNESS.

States Health Office Gives Some Interesting Information.

Without attempting to overcome the incorrect impression created by