

APPROPRIATIONS.—We may judge from communications which we are receiving from those interested in all matters, there is considerable feeling being stirred up by the fact that the Legislature is not disposed to grant as much money for various state purposes as is asked. Especially, at this moment there is feeling because it is alleged that the Legislature will not give the money for the State Engineer's office, which does not give the state engineer any revenue to continue the work, and that the request of State Engineer Shenn for the provision of five millions, which he claims will allow him to go ahead and give the people in every county highway improvements which they have voted to accept, has been turned down. But while these things are rather discouraging to the enthusiastic advocates of highway improvement, we think the Legislature which are being sent out are hardly justified. All these things do not indicate any hostility to good roads. Unfortunately, the men who are advocating such improvements do not seem to have agreed among themselves and their disagreements are serious enough to afford a good excuse for going slow.

The real motive, however, is either not understood or is not stated by those who protest against this going slow. The fact is that the barge canal gratuity want all the money there is in sight, and there is not nearly as much in sight as they want. The state bonds, it will be remembered, have not sold. There has been a pretended sale by turning them over to the state sinking fund, which is confessedly only a makeshift of extremely doubtful legality. We are also told that a considerable amount of them has been spouted the money lenders, a proceeding which has no warrant in law whatever, and by resorting to these expedients the amount available is a good deal below what the canal promoters are demanding.

We do not believe, either, that the stringency of the situation has reached its height. It would be any easier to find money for the barge canal next year than it has been this year. Its merits certainly are not likely to grow upon the conviction of the people. The fact that the best lawyers of the state have declared it unconstitutional has ruined the prospects of the loan in the open market, and there is still a possibility that the question these lawyers have raised will come to a direct contest before the court of last resort; and so long as the barge canal is pending, there is no money to waste on good roads or any other thing that can by any possibility be side tracked and left out. The barge canal fills the stage, and while it does not other interests have any rights which its promoters consider themselves bound to respect.

Lately a bill has been passed, we are told, which provides that the pay of women employed as teachers in New York City schools shall be the same as that of men in the same grades. Theoretically, this is entirely just and right, but we should think it would be pretty difficult to decide exactly what teaching services are so nearly alike as to call for an equality of pay. There are in our public schools quite a number of men teachers, but they do not get salaries that are alike. One man is recognized as a better teacher than another and gets higher pay, and while the general average of women teachers is perhaps lower than that of men teachers, yet it is also true that the average work performed by men teachers is of a higher grade than that of women teachers, so that the effect of the law may be just the reverse of what is intended.—In other words, its effect may be to exclude women from the grades now occupied by men and to force their employment only in the lower grades, while men may be given a monopoly of the higher ones.

Meantime the Middletown Times-Press comes to the front with a quite voluminous contribution to the question of relative pay in which it takes the ground that women are in reality better teachers than men and therefore ought to have higher pay. It thinks they are given the care of the children at the most difficult age, and that there are many positions which they fill acceptably in which men would be out of place altogether. The real reason why the salaries of women teachers are lower than those of men is the old reason which governs all questions of price, namely, the relation between supply and demand. Good men teachers are rarer than good women teachers. If there is a vacancy in a school that has been taught by a woman and in which a woman would be preferred, there are likely to be many more applicants for that vacancy than under any corresponding circumstances among men teachers. On the other hand, it must be admitted that men who teach are likely to have adopted teaching as a profession, and to have qualified themselves for some special position or department, while the woman takes

up teaching in part as a temporary means of support, rarely expecting to give her life to it. If there should be given to her the opportunity to marry and establish a home of her own. We shall be somewhat curious to see what the effect of the law will be in practice, but we suspect it may be found that the whole matter is surrounded by so many variations and other difficulties that it will be almost impossible to carry it into effect both in spirit and in letter.

NOT READY.—We have had in our country rather more than our share of public exhibitions, and of these, especially in commemoration of some event, and most of them either centennial or bi-centennial or tri-centennial, but there has been one characteristic that has applied to them all, and that is that none of them have ever been ready when the time came, and hence the celebration of the date and the event to be commemorated has been about as near a failure as it was possible to make it. In each case the promise has been made beforehand that this particular exposition was to be ready on time, but as the successive times have arrived, each one has usually been a little further behind time than its predecessor. The Jamestown Exposition was said to have been "opened" on Friday last, and the ceremonies of opening were then performed, including, as perhaps the most important thing, a speech by President Roosevelt.

But if any of the accounts are correct, we think the president would have been justified in coming to Jamestown, looking around a little and then excusing himself with perhaps a promise that he would come back later when the exposition was ready. To "open" that which is not there yet is rather more than a perfunctory operation. The New York Times is about the severest in its statement, and its correspondent says: "The plain fact is, there is no Jamestown Exposition now, and there will not be for some time to come. It is idle for anyone to say now that there is anything here that will repay a visitor for the trouble and expense of travel from any distance. Only one feature of the whole show is ready, and that is the navy." Further on we are told that there is not a single building finished and no exhibits in place at all. Although we are getting tired of exhibitions and think it is about time to take a rest on them, yet we have wished well to the Jamestown people and have published more or less of the advanced matter which the "publicity" people have sent out. Evidently, however, the time to go and see it has not yet arrived. There is a good and quite interesting naval display on hand, and those who want to see that will doubtless find it a pleasant trip, but those who want to see the show itself had better make their arrangements for a trip later on. In fact, we are beginning to doubt whether it would not be better to shut up the whole affair again and then start in fresh when there is something there to see.

THE TWO JUDGES BARTLETT.—Sentiment is evidently growing in favor of a union ticket for judge of the court of appeals this year, which will render it unnecessary to hold any state convention and will conduce to a general campaign of nonpartisan harmony. It is a singular fact that the two judges who are talked about as candidates are both of the same name, and we presume have some personal relationship with each other. They are both Bartletts. Judge Edward T. Bartlett is a Republican, now on the court of appeals, whose term expires on the first of January next, and the party generally is in favor of his re-nomination. He was elected originally as the opponent of Isaac H. Maynard, the judge who assisted in the stealing of the senate from this district fourteen years ago, his victory being the first important evidence of the political reaction which was caused by that outrage upon the whole people. The other candidate, Judge Willard Bartlett, is also sitting in the court of appeals, though he was elected as a judge of the supreme court and has been designated according to the constitution as one of the additional judges needed on the court of appeals because of its largely increased business. Both of them stand high in the estimation of the lawyers of the state and both have excellent records for their work on the bench. Edward T. Bartlett cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln and has been a Republican all his life. Willard Bartlett, though a Democrat, ought to be regarded as not wholly reprehensible for his politics, since he was law partner of Elihu Root before going on the supreme court bench.

A WOMAN IS NOT A "PERSON."—A most amusing incident recently occurred in St. John, New Brunswick, where a Miss Mabel French, after passing her examination with high honors, was denied permission to practice law in the Supreme Court because according to the "Act" only "persons" were allowed to practice law, and "women" were not persons.—"only men were persons."—After a woman was arrested for drunkenness, and on trial pleaded "not guilty," being "a woman" and "not a person,"—therefore not amenable to the law. The magistrate found the law to read "that a person found drunk was liable to fine or imprisonment; and ruled that according to the decision of

the Supreme Court "women were not persons, and could not be imprisoned nor fined," so the prisoner was discharged. As a result, the legislature promptly passed an "Act" designating women as persons, so Miss French was allowed her degree in law. But no study of woman's political progress can be just that does not take into account her rapid and enormous development in the faculty of organization, and in intelligent interest in public concerns. These are absolutely essential to the formation of a democracy; the wise and safe exercise of the suffrage; and it is precisely in these that the phenomenal record of the "woman's movement" is most clear. The strongest proof of woman's long inferiority is her lack of association, only in religious bodies was she allowed to organize; and the strongest proof of her rapid approach to equality is in the uncounted thousands who now gather together in Clubs and Societies of every description, charitable, reformatory, educational, social, political; and of all sizes, from the handful of the "Ladies Literary" to the International Council of Women, which in 1909 represented through its many constituent national organizations a membership of six million. In the next Quinquennial meeting of 1911 the National Councils joining had doubled in number, but the sum of their respective memberships is not at hand.—Charlotte Perkins Gilman in the May Woman's Home, Compendium.

FRAUDS IN THE MAIL.—The Hon. George H. Cortelyou, Secretary of the Treasury, contributes a remarkably interesting article, entitled "Frauds in the Mail," to the April 19th number of The North American Review. The article was written while Mr. Cortelyou was still Postmaster-General, and shows a remarkable grasp of the affairs of that department. In style it is singularly clear and lucid, and makes one wish the Secretary of the Treasury would write more frequently. Mr. Cortelyou observes: "Naturally, the largest and most important branch of the warfare which is being waged by the Department against abuses of the mailing privilege is represented in the issuance of fraudulent orders against devices, whereby the credulous are deceived by promises of sudden gain or some other great benefit. But there are other essential lines in which the Department has directed its efforts toward purifying the mails. In the suppression of lotteries it has been of inestimable value to the country, as well as in the suppression of obscene and indecent literature; and during the past year it has effectively barred from certain offending newspapers in a number of our large cities advertisements of criminal establishments, the evil effects of which—degrading and illegal practices—are of incalculable harm to our people. "It will be readily understood that the guarding of the mails for the purpose of keeping at the minimum the manifold abuses to which they are inherently subject is a task of great magnitude; but it is being better and more efficiently done every year, affording much justification for the remark, which has been made not long ago, that the Post-Office Department of the United States is the most effective agency in the world for the detection and prevention of crime and the apprehension of the criminal."

THE AUTOMOBILE VS. THE HORSE.—While a horse suits our family at present much better than an automobile would suit it, I am going to be tolerant of automobiles, even though they abrade the nerves of our horse when he meets them on the road and make it unsafe for him to drive him. I guess they are just a part of the vicious medietrix nature of the modern gradually developed from the disease called city life and adapted to imitate its severities, if not to cure it. They certainly do help people to get out of cities and though they may seem to make it somewhat too easy for them to get back, that is not a real defect. Anything that takes city people to the country is a good thing. It is good for the true country-dwelling people, who make money off of them. Moreover, anything that makes country life attractive to successful money-makers and induces them to retire from business and let some one else have a chance, is very helpful indeed. In so far as automobiles serve that use it is pretty certain that they do useful service.—E. K. Martin, in Harper's for May.

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