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A PECULIAR SITUATION.

The persistent efforts of Police

Commissioner Roosevelt and the New

York police to close the saloons on

Sunday have so far cowed the liquor

men in New York that their organi-

zation has passed resolutions calling

upon all its members to close their

saloons on Sunday and to assist in

prosecution and conviction of all

who violate the law.

The reason for this change of front

was explained in the court of Gen-

eral sessions by Attorney House, counsel

for the saloon keepers' organization.

In making leniency for several saloon

keepers, indicted for violating the

Sunday law, he stated that the police,

by closing the saloons on Sunday,

had practically ruined a large num-

ber of his clients who depended upon

their Sunday trade to make both

ends meet. They could not realize

for some time that there had been a

change from the old regime, when

arrests for violation of the Sunday

law were made as a "bluff" to coerce

the saloon keepers into certain de-

sired political action. Many of the

saloons were practically owned by

the big brewery corporations who ex-

acted so large an interest on their

investments that it was necessary to

sell on Sunday to make even a fair

living. Those of his clients, he said,

who were in this position, had

had made up their minds that the

police meant business and had de-

ecided to sell out and retire. They

had become tired of the enormous

expense and constant worry of fight-

ing the police and the law.

This result shows that a law on

the statute books, no matter how ob-

noxious it may be, can be enforced

to the letter, if the officials make up

their minds to do so. There is reason

to believe that Roosevelt favors a

more liberal Sunday law, but he

takes the unassailable stand that he

is not responsible for the law, or the

intentions of its sponsors, but that he

## A NEEDED REFORM.

Some of the scenes at recent pri-

maries furnish an unanswerable

argument in favor of more stringent

regulations for conducting caucuses.

There should be some hall, rented or

owned by the city, as nearly as pos-

sible in the center of the ward,

where all primaries should be held.

The officers of the primaries should

either be elected at the annual

caucuses or should be named by the

central party organization, at least

two weeks before the caucuses so that

all voters may know who is in con-

trol, and also that the police may

know to whom to report. The system

in vogue of allowing the electors to

choose officers when the caucuses

assembled, is simply an invitation to

rival factions to gather the largest

crowd of supporters in order to

control the organization, even by

force. Such practices deprive all

primaries of any representative char-

acter, and respectable citizens will

not attend. The rabble is allowed

to control nominations and the best

men are often kept out of office.

The primaries are the fountain

head of American politics, and there

should be thrown around them all

the safeguards of a general election.

The bigots caught a Tartar when

they undertook to castrate Senator

Hear of Massachusetts because he

did not avow his sympathy with the

A. P. A. In a ringing letter the

senator denounces the A. P. A., its

methods and its aims. He also

praises General Sheridan, John Boyle

O'Reilly, Archbishop Williams and

other well-known Catholics who are

or have been prominent in public

life. He also scores the A. P. A. for

trying to prevent Catholics from

teaching in the public schools, and

concludes by the significant state-

ment that the Republican party can-

not afford to antagonize the 700,000

Catholics in Massachusetts to please

the A. P. A.

According to the press despatches,

during the recent massacre in China,

the only missionaries who remained

at their posts were the Catholic

priests. The Protestant missionaries

were too much engrossed with fears

for their wives and children to care

whether their converts had spiritual

consolation or not in hour of danger.

Not so the Catholic priests. They

remained at their posts facing tor-

ture and death. Could there be any

better proof of the wisdom of the

Church in ordaining that her priests

abstain from matrimony?

In a little town in California the

A. P. A. secured control of the board

of public school trustees. Immedi-

ately the only Catholic teacher in the

school was dismissed and the board

voted not to excuse the Catholic

children between 8 and 4 p. m. on

Fridays, as had been the custom, to

attend special religious exercises.

What was the result? A parochial

school was at once started and the

Catholic children were withdrawn

from the public school. The defe-

ction bids fair to close the public

school from lack of pupils. Here is

a case where the bitter was badly

bit.

France shows unjustifiable delay

in complying with the demands of

the United States government for a

copy of the evidence in the case of

ex-Consul Waller, who, it is alleged,

was unjustly sentenced to fifteen

years' imprisonment for illegal oper-

ations in Madagascar. Our State

department should talk plainly to

France. If Waller was unjustly

## DIAMOND DIGGINGS.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THEFT IN

SOUTH AFRICAN MINES.

But in spite of all this stealing still con-

tinues. The Decline of the Town of Kim-

berly—Population Has Fallen to the

Gold Fields About Johannesburg.

"The South African diamond mines

are worked almost entirely by native

laborers—the Kafirs, Zulus, Hottentots

and the rest," said a diamond merchant.

"These receive good wages, about \$125

per month, and are hired for a term of

three months." During this period they

are confined in compounds located on

the edge of the mines. The compounds

consist of rows of buildings of corrugated

iron, forming a hollow square, surrounded

by a high board fence and covering

several acres of ground. Within this cor-

ral are stores, a hospital, boarding houses

and other conveniences. Wood and wa-

ter are furnished free, but no alcoholic

liquors are allowed. During their term

of service the natives are not allowed to

have any communication with the out-

side world and are under a system of

close personal surveillance in order to

prevent the theft of diamonds. When

they come up from the mine shaft, they

are carefully searched, and many in-

genious methods are adopted to reduce

the loss from this source to a minimum.

"Notwithstanding all that is done,

however, the theft of diamonds still

continues. It is estimated that from 10

to 20 per cent of the diamonds found

are stolen every year. In order to pre-

vent this a very stringent law was pass-

ed, providing that all rough diamonds

should be registered with the detective

bureau of the government as soon as

they were found, and that every man

who sold a diamond must give with it

a certificate of registry.

"The penalty for having an unregis-

tered rough diamond is seven years on

the Cape Town breakwater, and the

mere fact of possession is prima facie

evidence and will secure conviction. So

it happens that if one laborer wants to

do up another he manages to slip a

rough diamond into the other laborer's

coat or tuck it into his room, and then

tells the police to keep a sharp lookout.

Of course the police make a search, the

contraband stone is found, and the man

is in for a term of seven years. A great

many unjust sentences have unquestion-

ably been secured in this way, but de-

spite the opposition to the law the com-

pany is powerful enough to keep it in

force.

"There are other diamond fields out-

side of the Kimberley district, but they

are difficult to work and are mainly ex-

ploited by diggers working on their own

account. The total product is not large,

and the work is very arduous, the dig-

gers being mostly men who have been

thrown out of work by the consolidation

of the Kimberley mines into one vast

corporation and the subsequent restric-

tion of production. This latter, by the

way, has had a curious effect upon the

town of Kimberley itself. As late as

four years ago Kimberley had a popula-

tion of 25,000 or 30,000 people. It was

laid out for a great city and enjoyed for

a time a big boom.

"Fine brick blocks and residences

were built, hotels and theaters and wa-

terworks and everything pertaining to

a modern city. Now a good third of

these places are empty, and Kimberley is

as dead as a New England town that is

dependent upon a single mill. All the

supplies and machinery for the mines

are now bought of course by a single

company, so that more than two-thirds

of the business of the town is gone.

There is nothing there to sustain a town

except the mine, and with the opening

up of the goldfields much of the popu-

lation moved on north to Johannesburg.

"Although the existence of gold in

the Transvaal had been known for years,

yet the Boers disliked the invading

prospectors and for a time kept them

out by law. Afterward a more liberal

spirit prevailed, and the Boer govern-

ment offered reward for the finding of

paying goldfields. But it was not until

1884 that the now celebrated gold bear-

ing reef in which the bulk of South Af-

rican gold is found was discovered, and

it was not until four years later that the

opening of the celebrated Sheba mine

and its phenomenal yield, gave rise to a

fever. Then prospectors poured in from

Kimberley and the Cape, coming by

push cart, wagon, horseback or on foot.

In a year there were 10,000 persons in

the district. The center of the excitement

was the little town of Barberton,

but this section was soon thrown into

the shade by the discoveries on the Wit-

watersrand. But while the excitement

lasted the De Kapp fields, as they were

known, had their day, and 96 com-