

### CALL HIM FIRST CITIZEN

That Because He Invariably Casts Ballot No. 1.

MICHAEL J. FINNERTY

That's His Name—He Runs a Little Hotel on Washington Street, Looks Like Tom Foley the Tammany Leader and Always Doffs His Hat to the Hale Statue.

They have called him New York's "first citizen," because on each election day for many years he has been the first man to vote in the first election district of the First Assembly District.

Among his neighbors Michael J. Finnerty is called simply "The old citizen." "Old," possibly because he is sixty-six years of age, and "citizen" because of his almost religious devotion to the obligations of citizenship, a devotion curiously illustrated in his steadfast determination year after year, to vote ballot number one.

Michael J. Finnerty runs a little hotel, called the Bally Langford, at No. 112 1/2 Washington Street.

In 1857 he came through Old Castle Garden, a boy sixteen years old. He came alone to seek his fortune, and knocked about New York doing odd jobs for ten years, when he bought out the little hotel which is now his home and place of business.

He married soon after arriving in this country, and had at one time a family of five boys and two girls, and a happier man could not be found than he was. "But," said Finnerty yesterday to a World reporter, "I buried the five young men and the two young ladies, then I buried their mother, and if it wasn't for my good humor I would be over in Greenwood to-day."

Attention was called to the fact that he had a large Irish flag out in front of his place. "Yes," was the reply, "I always have that lag out. You see, I was born in Ireland, but I came to this country a young sort of lad, and when I came I came to stay. I came to make this country my home and didn't waste much time, I tell you, in talking out my papers and becoming a real American citizen. I am an American to-day, to-morrow and forever. This is my country and I would lay down my life for her this minute."

"Do you remember what Nathan Hale said when they were about to hang him up here in City Hall Park? He said: 'I regret that I have but one life to give to my country.' That's me, too. And I never pass that statue of Nathan Hale up there that I don't take my hat off and say 'God Bless him!'"

"The first vote I ever cast was for General George McClellan for President when he was running against Abe Lincoln, and I have never mislaid voting on election day since."

"It was the pride of my young life in this country to vote. Of course I was here several years before I could vote, but just as soon as the right was mine I took hold of it and considered it then and do now consider it a sacred duty of an American citizen to go to the polls on election day and cast his ballot."

Casting the first ballot in my district was hardly intentional in the beginning, that is, it was not a matter of being the first man to vote with me, but a matter of voting, and in my eagerness to do so I always went to the polls early before anybody else was there, and when the polls opened there I was, and had put my ballot in the box and left before other voters had wakened up. After awhile it occurred to me that I had been the first man to vote for several elections, then I decided to keep on being first.

When I had been first for twenty-five years, however, I decided to retire and let some other fellow put ballot No. 1 in the box, but just about the time I had made up my mind to do that I heard that a certain fellow that I had little love for was boasting that he was going to beat me out on the next election day, so put off retiring and have been putting it off ever since.

"Well, maybe voting ballot No. 1 don't amount to much. I don't count any more than ballot No. 101, I know, but it means something to me, and last Tuesday when I heard the clerk call out Michael J. Finnerty votes ballot No. 1 there was something more than simple satisfaction touched my heart, something more than enough to make me get up next election day in time to hear that call all over again."

"They say I look like Foley. Do you think so? and 'the old citizen' took off the little white cap he wore and removed a pair of spectacles. 'Yes, everybody says I do.' And everybody's right, for Finnerty, while not as large a man as the new elect, has a face and head that are remarkably like that of the other man."

**Competition for Preventing Dust.**  
A Boston firm has introduced a new re-breathing composition for preventing dust. It is called Apokonia, and is a mixture of the heavier real and artificial dusts in the distillation of which the dust is being kept.

### THE COUNTESS OF WARWICK.

Made a Flying Trip to America Incognito; Purely for Recreation.

When it was learned that the Countess of Warwick had made a trip to this country under an assumed name, there were all sorts of conjectures as to the reasons for her visit. The countess is noted for her beauty, and also, in spite



COUNTESS OF WARWICK.

of her aristocratic lineage and position for being the leading woman socialist of Great Britain. A person so interesting, the fertile-minded writers for the press assumed, must have come here for some more or less remarkable purpose. Just before sailing home, however, the countess made the very simple explanation that she had undertaken the journey purely for rest and recreation. This it was which impelled her to travel incognito and to shun social functions and the reporters as well. But while she had, as she expressed it, a lazy time of it, Lady Warwick found time to inspect and to become appreciative of the schools and hospitals of New York. She also was agreeably impressed with American women, whom she pronounced charming. Though not a woman suffragist, the countess has taken an active part in English public life. She has addressed many political gatherings from a cart, advocating socialist doctrines, and she founded the Social Democratic Federation in the East End of London, as well as various "settlements," which have caused a substantial increase in the Socialist vote.—Leslie's Weekly.

### To The Pole By Bear Power.

Capt. Roald Amundsen, the explorer of the Northwest Passage, is the latest aspirant for the honor of discovering the North Pole. Capt. Amundsen has a new scheme. He is not going to take any chances with airships, motor-sleds or any other artificial achievements of modern ingenuity. His motto is: "Back to Nature." He proposes to use things that are at home in Arctic conditions. His motive power will be polar bears. The normal polar bear as he is found at large, would have some disadvantages in the role of a domestic animal. His temper is not amiable, and it would be hard to keep him in a proper state of discipline, even with a club. The only effective argument with him is a gun, preferably at long range. But Capt. Amundsen proposes to employ bears that have never heard the call of the wild. He is having them trained as cubs, so that by the time they grow up they ought to be as docile as horses. When he takes them North a trip to the Pole will be a mere pleasure jaunt for them. The colder and meaner the weather, the better they will like it. If they come to a break in the ice such as the one that stopped Peary, they will enjoy swimming across. With seal flesh for their food they can live on the country. According to Capt. Amundsen, a bear is ten times as strong as a horse and can haul as much as a hundred dogs. With six bears, therefore, he will have sixty horsepower, or six hundred dog-power. Moreover, when tamed, polar bears are "tractable, reliable and affectionate." Even if they should eat their master in a moment of forgetfulness, no doubt they would regret it afterward.

The Norwegian explorer is prepared to give five or six years to his experiment. He proposes to use Nansen's ship, the Fram, if he can get it, or one like it. He expects to take the Bering Strait route and watch his chance as his vessel drifts across the Polar Basin to make his bear dash for the Pole. If Commander Peary, Mr. Cook, and the other explorers who are headed that way, do not crowd in ahead of him, he may secure the unparalleled honor of carrying off both the two great prizes of Arctic exploration. One of them, the Northwest Passage, is already his, and if he can add the Pole to that he will have a distinction that will be altogether unique.—Collier's.

### Writer to Raise Mules.

Thomas Nelson Page, the Virginia writer, has, it is announced, decided to go into the raising of mules on an extensive scale on a 1,000-acre plantation near Beaver Dam, Va. The mule business will get interlarded with his literary efforts.

### WORLD GROWING SMALLER

Reduction of Time Brings Us Nearer to Europe.

FIVE DAYS APART

And There is Indication That There May Be an Ultimate Reduction to Three Days—This Would Require a Steady Speed of 50 Miles an Hour.

Speed is the passion of the hour and it is quite natural, therefore, that the success of the Lusitania in racing across the Atlantic at a pace faster than had hitherto been attained by a great liner should have excited a sort of enthusiasm both in England and America.

The feat is really a remarkable one, reducing as it does, the ocean distance between England and America to less than five days and indicating the possibility of an ultimate reduction to three days which would be the result of a steady speed of fifty miles an hour.

That is probably the limit of progress of journeys across the world, unless the great engineers who now building aeroplanes succeed in securing a higher rate without strangling the unhappy victims of their experiments.

As it is, however, the present pace intensifies one's perception of that shrinkage of the world which has been steadily going on for the last fifty years, during which, speaking broadly, the globe has been practically been reduced to nearly one-third its size.

When we reach America in three days we shall reach India in seven and Hong Kong in twelve and shall have, of course, by degrees, new ideas of the distance of those places from us. That must be admitted to be "progress." The later question—"Progress to what?" still, of course remains to be answered, but that man should be proud of his new powers is, as we have said, most natural.

But we cannot help wondering how many have considered gravely what the consequence of these new powers must be. One political consequence at least is pretty clear. The value of sea power to every nation must be seriously enhanced. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of this effect; but there are some other effects which thoughtful men have accepted as certain that we, we suspect, exaggerated.

The "federation of mankind," for example, will probably not be hastened. That depends upon changes other than those in the speed of communication. Years ago a swimmer, Capt. Webb, actually swam the channel between England and France. Yet for 500 years the existence of that channel helped to maintain a perfect severance between the countries and their statesmen.

There was no symptom of even a desire for federation, and might not have been had the channel been reduced to a narrow river. Very recently the boundary line between Germany and France was such a river, and the consequence of that contiguity was that the population of both armed themselves to the teeth through centuries for the purpose of killing each other.

Difference of language is a more insuperable barrier than distance, and difference of civilization is more impassable than either. It would be as easy to federate ourselves with Japan as with France, and easier than to federate ourselves with Germany.

There will be no disarmament of the world in consequence of increased speed, whether by land or sea; rather there will be a tendency to fall back in despair on a universal system of conscription and fortresses.

It will not be a source of amity, or rather of distrust, to know that France or Germany possesses the means of transporting 50,000 men in thirty days to the shores of Britain; while if Russia or China could accumulate armies within two days' journey of India Lord Kitchener would demand and obtain for the forces of which he now possesses the command.

The development of science does not necessarily insure peace, and one agreement or register of an entente cordiale, if heartily accepted by both populations will do more to cement the friendship of the evil lethargy in which for three thousand years the richest of continents has been sunk.

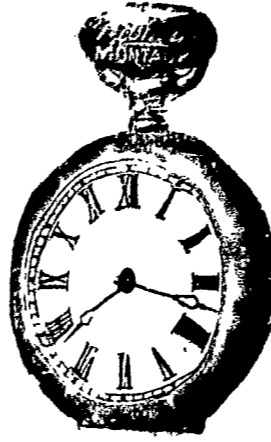
We assume too readily that the grand obstacles to civilization are physical, and forget too readily that a tyrant may drive a motor car and a voluptuary sleep away existence.

Men were still driving ships with the help of the wind and the power of their own muscles when St. Paul set out on his mission, and the fate of half the world was revolutionized when Columbus set sails in boats which a Newcastle collier of to-day would despise as a means of conveyance for his coal.

Beliefs, amities, systems of thought, are all too subtle to be conveyed by telegraph, and even the Lusitania cannot rival the matchless speed of electricity.—London Spectator.

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### OFFICE APPLIANCES FOR CHILE

Demand for American Typewriting Machines Greater Than Ever.

In Daily Consular and Trade Reports Consul A. A. Winslow of Valparaiso says that the demand for typewriting machines, cash registers and up to date office appliances in Chile is much greater than ever, caused largely by the great advance in wages demanded by clerk and office help.

The demand is greatest for American made goods, even though prices run higher. During 1905 Chile imported \$79,862 worth of typewriters, of which the United States furnished \$58,730 worth, and Germany \$7,144 worth. These values are in American gold. Figures for 1906 cannot yet be given, but it is known that they were higher than for 1905, and for 1907 they are still higher.

There is a good demand for cash registers and automatic adding machines. Those in use came almost entirely from the United States. There is a fine opening for office desks, filing cabinets, &c., but the trade is being mainly left to England and Germany.

### Don't Like "Funeral" Streets.

If you want to know just how sensitive some folks are in New York listen to the reasons some of our tenants give for cancelling their leases," said a renting agent.

"Here are complaints from five families who want to move because they live on 'funeral streets.' A lot of people, it seems, are sensitive about that. There are certain streets in town—those near churches where many funerals are held and those leading to the Long Island ferries—which are usually traveled by funeral parties.

"Houses in those streets are becoming a poor investment. There is more moving from those houses than from any others we have anything to do with, and generally the movers give as the reason for their dissatisfaction the fact that the sight of so many hearses gets on their nerves."

### Wears a Belt Now.

Admiral Walker believed heartily in marriage for sailors. He always urged sailors to wed. Strolling in New York one day he met a young ship broker. Admiral Walker hailed the young man delightedly. He slapped him on the back, wrung his hand and cried: "Congratulations on your marriage. No more sewing on of buttons, now, eh?" "No, indeed," said the ship broker sharply. "I wear a belt now. It keeps me so busy raising the money to pay my wife's bills that I have no time to sew on buttons."

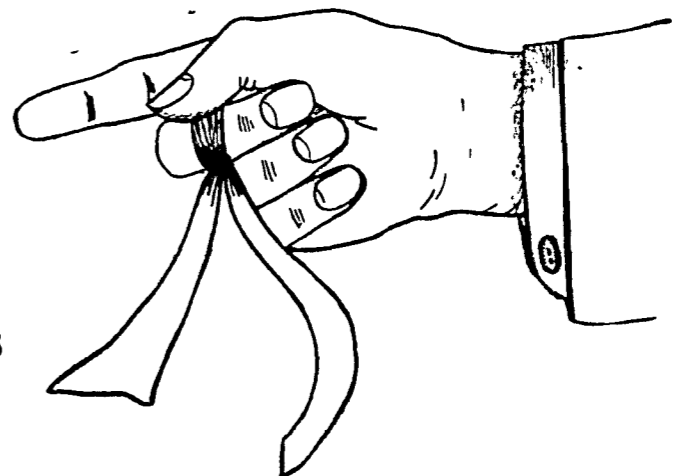
### Prince Adalbert.

Prince Adalbert, the sailor son of Emperor William of Germany, is 24 years old, still heart free and regarded by many as occupying a particularly warm place in the affections of his parents, perhaps because his service at sea has taken him so much away from them. He has been all over the world, and everywhere has made friends. His disposition is, of the sunniest character, and, comely and stalwart, he is just the lad to fill the role of hero in a romance.

### Charlotte Bronte in Youth.

There lives in a Yorkshire moor in England an old lady who remembers Charlotte Bronte in youth. She was servant in a family to which Charlotte was governess. "Miss Bronte was no doubt the governess," she says. "But what was Miss Bronte like?" she was asked, "for she wrote some famous stories." "Eh," replies the old lady, "I never heard tell as she'd done owt to mark folk talk; she wor no doubt the governess."

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