

The Week's Progress

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THE NEW NAME.

THE WEEK'S PROGRESS it is to be. We earnestly hope that this name will please and satisfy all our readers, and that all will recognize its fitness. Out of more than three thousand suggestions received it is the only one that suited our ideas, and strangely enough it was submitted by only one person, Miss Esther T. Berglund, of Moline, Ill. The announcement of the award of the prize to her, and of several gratuitous extra awards to other persons who made valuable suggestions, looms up on the opposite page. Look there for the details.

We do not purpose to say much more of this competition. Some persons are doubtless disappointed; others probably realized that thousands of readers besides themselves were trying to earn the money we offered, and that their own chances, therefore, were not large. But of the method employed in the selection it is only fair to say this: As soon as the competition closed the titles that had been suggested were all listed alphabetically by stenographers, the names of the competitors being omitted from the lists. The committee worked with the lists, gradually eliminating one suggestion after another, until very few remained. These in turn were carefully discussed, being considered from every point of view, until at last THE WEEK'S PROGRESS was seen to be the best of all, although a number of excellent names had been offered. Then for the first time the committee turned to the files and found the name of Miss Berglund and that she was the only person who had made the winning suggestion.

There were many curious names submitted—all of them in good faith, we make no doubt. "Condensed Milk" was offered; so were "The Charmer," "My Choice," "Sweet Thoughts," "The Only Pebble," "The Whole Show," and many other highly flattering and partially descriptive titles. We suspect that the persons who suggested "The Strenuous Spirit of Fifth Avenue," "The World's Incomprehensible Iconoclast," "Gates Ajar," "The Rounder," and "The Universal Eagle Eye of Progress and of Countries" are of a waggish turn of mind.

It is surprising how many persons sent in names that are already in use by high-class publications. We have wondered also at the many instances where forty or fifty persons have made the same suggestion.

The new dress of type will, we think, prove both attractive and legible. The new cover design speaks for itself.

And once more as to the new name: It has proved a winner for Miss Berglund; we are certain that it will also prove a winner for the magazine.

Petition to the Czar.

President Roosevelt Decides to Forward the B'nai B'rith Petition—Precedents for the Action—Russia Will Probably Reject It—No Diplomatic Break Likely.

The decision of our Government to forward to St. Petersburg the petition from American Jews relating to the Kishineff massacre was reached only

after such careful consideration as determined the entire harmlessness of the step. It was seen that nothing in the diplomatic action need be construed as hostile to the Russian Government nor as an undue interference. There have been precedents for just such a course. In 1882, when there occurred in Russia an anti-Jewish outbreak of less enor-

mity than that at Kishineff, Secretary Frelinghuysen, of President Arthur's Cabinet, sent to the American Ambassador at St. Petersburg a note expressing the hope that Russia would find means to put an end to the persecution of the Jews. This note was read to the Russian Premier. Again, in 1891, our Government made similar representations to Russia, and in his message to Congress in December of that year President Harrison said: "This Government has found occasion to express in a friendly spirit, but with much earnestness, to the Government of the Czar its serious concern because of the harsh measures now being enforced against the Hebrews in Russia."

In neither of these instances did our representatives elicit any formal reply from Russia. We had to content ourselves with telling Russia what we thought of it all—and that doubtless completed our duty in the matter. But in neither case was there any noticeable break in the harmony of our relations with Russia. Nor is it likely at the present time that the forwarding of the B'nai B'rith petition will raise any international howdy-do. The petition may not reach the Czar. The Beaucrats may dismiss the subject with a few polite informal words to Mr. Riddle, the American *Chargé d'affaires* at St. Petersburg. The situation will then remain unaltered. Russia may even retort with a request that we do something to stop the recurrence of lynchings in our own country, and we could not afford to receive such a suggestion with bad grace.

OUR PECULIAR POSITION.

Only—and this seems to us a vital point—it must be remembered that the United States holds a peculiar position in its relation to the citizens of many foreign nations. In our population are included several million foreigners, including Russian Jews who, while they are no longer amenable to the Russian laws, are united by bonds of kinship and tradition with their fellows in Russia. Since the Jews compose so large a body among our citizens, their views are en-

titled to some official expression through our Government, and especially in a form so hopefully respectful as the B'nai B'rith petition. If there were a large negro element in Russia, there would be greater diplomatic reason for a Russian protest against our lynchings. Suppose that the mass of our people suddenly began flagrantly to persecute their German fellow citizens: Would not Germany feel entitled to enter a protest? And could we well resent such an action? After all, however, it is a question of practice rather than of theory; and whatever the result of the President's action we have excellent reason to infer that Secretary Hay is not blundering around in the dark.

The Lynching Horror.

The Lynching at Wilmington, Del.—The Feeling That Incited the Mob-Lynching Is Savage Lawlessness, but It Indicates a Strong Belief That the Law Is Not Always Adequate.

Since Jan. 1 there have been almost thirty lynchings in the United States. These instances have not been confined to Southern States. Within a few weeks one occurred in Illinois. The majority of the victims have been negroes. The burning of George White at Wilmington, Del., last week was witnessed by a determined mob of four or five thousand persons, many of whom are said to be "representative citizens." White had assaulted and murdered the daughter of the Rev. E. A. Bishop, and an irrepressible desire for the immediate condign punishment of the wretched negro spread through Wilmington and the neighborhood. The New Castle County Workhouse was broken into, the mob leaders taking some time to cut their way through the strong doors to the cell of the guilty man, who was then dragged to the scene of his crime and burned. The prison authorities made such resistance as they could, short of firing point blank at the lynchers. For their restraint in this matter they have been commended by Governor Hann.

During several days after the lynching there was danger of a race war in Wilmington. One outbreak did occur,

but it was quickly ended by the police, and at this writing order seems to have been restored.

The lynching is explained by the slowness of the law. The Judges of the Court of Oyer and Terminer declined to establish a precedent by calling a special session of court to try White. They held that a fair trial was impossible at a time when public indignation was at white heat; and, moreover, there was so little doubt of the negro's guilt that the delay until the middle of September would have given him little opportunity to find means for avoiding the gallows. The Rev. Mr. Bishop, father of the murdered girl, issued a letter asking the people to let the law take its course. But the people refused to wait, and some of them, moreover, found a certain justification in the sermon of a Rev. R. A. Ellwood, who, on the Sunday before the burning, argued from his pulpit that, if an immediate trial were not granted by the courts, White ought to be lynched.

WHAT THE LYNCHINGS SIGNIFY.

Lynching is lawlessness. It is the result of a decision by a number of persons that the law is inadequate and that they have the right to assume the administration of a terrible justice as their own prerogative. It usually follows that a cruel spirit of revenge permeates a lynching mob, so that its actions are not only lawless but savage and brutal; for the wild rage of the avenger is bound to prevail where an orderly method of punishment is lacking.

At the same time it is true that the spirit of the lynchings for the nameless crime committed by White indicates a strong belief that the law does not deal satisfactorily with that crime. The passage of laws to make its commission punishable more speedily and more severely might do much to prevent lynching and to give people a sense of greater security in localities where the crime has been occasionally committed. The very difficulty of punishing lynchers shows the state of feeling in communities where mob spirit has been aroused.

Nevertheless Delaware owes it to herself to wipe out her disgrace. With all other States that have witnessed lynchings, she should promptly punish the lynchers and then turn a judicial eye to find suitable means of preventing a recurrence of lawlessness.

France and the Orders.

Premier Combes Prepares Harsher Measures Against Unauthorized Congregations—The Premier's Methods—M. Waldeck-Rousseau in Opposition.

The French Government is preparing harsher measures against the orders that are affected by the Associations law. M. Combes, the Premier, appears to be a singularly relentless man; and he lacks the political suavity of his predecessor, M. Waldeck-Rousseau. He seems to admit no gradual development in his policies; he would reach ultimate results in one stroke.

The religious congregations have been evading the laws against them by secularizing some of their own members and setting them to teaching in the communes. Thus two-thirds of the unauthorized schools have continued in operation, the only difference being that the teachers, being secularized, wear ordinary clothing instead of the religious garb. The Government is trying to meet this peculiar situation by forbidding former members of congregations to teach again for a period of three years, a bill for this purpose having passed the Chamber of Deputies and gone to the Senate. Other restrictive measures now before the Senate are the bill forbidding the authorization of female orders and the bill providing that lay schools shall take the place of the unauthorized schools of the congregations.

THE OPPOSITION VIEW.

The Government's attitude has provoked some resentment other than clerical. In the Senate last week M. Waldeck-Rousseau, under whose premiership the Associations law was passed, opposed the project to require communes to build schools to replace the unauthorized schools of congregations. He pointed to the enormous cost involved—near-