

done one important service: it has given us a somewhat clearer view of the function of the judge and his relation to the general body politic. Because most of us come in contact with the court when it is serving as an arbitrator between persons or interests in dispute, we are likely to overlook the great part it plays in the actual administration of the government. The man who objects to the Recall principle as applied anywhere in our scheme of government is entirely consistent when he objects to the Recall of judges; but the man who accepts the Recall idea as applied to legislators and executives, but objects to its application to judges, can scarcely appreciate, it would seem, the broad legislative and executive powers that rest with the courts under our present system.

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#### Land Exploitation in the Philippines.

Collier's (ind.), April 29.—By the treaty with Spain, concluded in December, 1898, the United States acquired the public domain of the Philippine Islands. Of the privately owned lands, some four hundred thousand acres were known as the Friar lands. Sugar and tobacco were their principal products. To settle a bitter controversy over these Friar lands, the United States authorized the Philippine Commission to buy them. President Taft himself negotiated their purchase. The organic act passed by Congress, which gave the Filipinos their present Government, limited the sale of all public lands in the islands to forty acres to any individual and to twenty-five hundred acres to any corporation or association of persons. On August 5, 1909, President Taft signed the tariff act, which placed Philippine sugar on the free list. This gave great advantage over our beet-sugar industry and over other sugar-growing countries. One month after this act was signed John Henry Hammond of the law firm of Strong & Cadwalader of New York City, representing Horace Havemeyer, Charles Senff, and Charles J. Welch, sought the consummation, through the Bureau of Insular Affairs in Washington, of the purchase of the San Jose Friar estate of fifty-six thousand acres. Havemeyer was at the time a director of the American Sugar Refining Company. Senff was a stockholder in the Sugar Trust, had been vice-president and a director, and was then under indictment for Custom-House frauds. Welch was a sugar commission merchant. The right of these persons to so large an amount of land was questioned. The matter was referred to Attorney-General Wickersham. Henry W. Taft is a member of the firm of Strong & Cadwalader, and Mr. Wickersham was a member of the same firm at the time of his appointment as Attorney-General. That the way was clear in the opinion of Havemeyer and his associates is indicated by the fact that the purchasers had, long before the close of the deal and long before the favorable opinion of the Attorney-General was made public, improved the estate on a large scale and prepared it for cultivation. The minority report of a Congressional investigating committee decides against Attorney-General Wickersham's legal conclusions. The majority report upholds them, but recommends the amendment of the law so as to prevent further sales. To Representative John A. Martin of Colorado is due the credit for bringing

these facts to light. The San Jose estate is gone, but Martin's persistent efforts have probably defeated a general policy of land exploitation in the Philippines.

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## RELATED THINGS

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#### BY THE OPEN WINDOW.

For The Public.

When the sweet songs of poets fill my soul  
 And twilight deepens in the quiet room,  
 A waft from lilacs in an emerald bowl,  
 I breathe the furtive zephyr's faint perfume;  
 And in the mystery of dusk I dream  
 A little dream of life. Before my eyes  
 A train of visions drift, and drifting seem  
 Future and past to blend into a wise  
 And perfect scheme. How rashly we aspire  
 To shape our ends, when at the best we gather  
 What secrets of the Universal Plan,  
 Enough to mount each step a little higher,  
 Bravely, sincerely, to progress; the rather  
 To justify to God the ways of man.

GERTRUDE COLLES.

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## THE LEGISLATIVE TRAGEDY IN OHIO.

Herbert S. Bigelow at People's Church, Cincinnati,  
 May 7, 1911.

"The end of the first inning, and the score is four to two in favor of the House." This was the comment of the Republican leader of the Ohio House of Representatives as we pored over the paper, wet from the press, giving the news of the indictment of members of the General Assembly. Three members and one employe of the Senate had been named by the grand jury, and two members of the House.

So men joked, or tried to joke, about what seems to be the greatest legislative scandal in the history of Ohio.

There are weeping women in the State today, and children who will carry to their graves dishonored names.

Men who four months ago organized the Ohio Legislature and captured the best places on the committees, and who from that vantage ground have controlled the legislative machinery of the State, are shunned today as though they already wore the convict's stripes.

To be in the atmosphere of that Assembly, to see the men upon whom the blow of the prosecutor has fallen and the men who are hourly expecting that they will be next, is to feel the awful tragedy that is being enacted at Ohio's capitol. There is much apparent hilarity over the plight of the men whose treachery had long enraged the

people of the State. But beneath the levity there is a profound sadness to see men reaping the bitter fruits of their wretched treason.

Moreover, the strength of the temptation must be remembered. If these men were ready to sell, that was their fault. But men are always ready to buy, and that is our fault.

Mark Hanna once said of himself and Foraker: "I buy and Foraker sells." Usually it is the seller who is punished and not the buyer, though the man who yields to the temptation to sell his vote is surely less criminal than they who employ lobbyists to lead men into temptation that they may buy them.

How the lobbyists have swarmed at the capitol all the year! Veterans at the business mostly, old and familiar faces, representing traction, gas, telephone, railroads—they are the Hessians of the Republic, and the public service corporation is their master.

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We have delegated to these private companies the sovereign power to enjoy monopolies and to tax the people for their private gain. This sovereignty has, of course, organized itself into a second legislature. We call it the lobby. It is a hateful thing. It is that part of the government which we have allowed to fall into private hands, running that part of the government which we still retain in public hands.

And why shouldn't the lobby run the legislature? It is bigger than the legislature. It represents more property than the State has. It represents more economic power. But it has come from the State, and the State may take it back.

The government should perform all governmental services; it should own and control all monopolies, and, through the initiative and referendum, the people should own and control the government.

Our political corruption is more institutional than personal, and must be remedied, not by prosecutions, but by a new order of things.

The first thing is for men to gain the power to make and unmake their own laws by direct vote at the polls, and then to address themselves to new economic problems that the age of steam and electricity has brought upon us.

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## THE JOKER IN THE BILL.

As Observed by Old Man Harder.

Yes! I had to laugh at Tomkins. Couldn't help it. Felt sorry for him too.

You see, while he's takin' train orders an' checkin' baggage over to the depot where I go for my evenin' paper, he does a lot o' farmin'—in his mind. So he feels in duty bound to look out for my interests while I'm sowin' oats.

But he's got such a squint in his mind about free trade an' protection that he sees things upside down half the time, an' scares us farmers half to death about nothin'.

He believes the tariff is made to protect everybody, an' if it don't it's because it ain't high enough.

He believes the tariff ain't a tax.

He believes it is a tax that the foreigner pays.

He believes that it don't increase the price of goods.

He believes that it makes higher prices for the maker of goods.

He believes that it makes lower prices for the consumer of goods.

He believes that the higher the price of goods the cheaper the consumer gets them.

He believes the tariff makes wages high at the same time it is makin' cheap goods, an' that men strike for higher wages because they want more money to spend in the saloons.

He believes that the farmer gets higher prices for his products an' lower prices for the products he has to buy, on account of the tariff, because it compels the farmer to trade with the home manufacturer when he wants to buy anything, an' makes him take the price fixed in the markets of the whole world when he wants to sell anything.

That's what makes me laugh. It's funny to see how Tomkins enjoys himself believin' in so many contradictory things.

Yes! I had to laugh at him when I went for my paper yesterday.

He was takin' down some train orders with one hand an' writin' a letter to Taft with the other. What's that? Purty smart feller! Sure! He is mighty smart about some things an' not so much smart about others. He can write with both hands at the same time all right, but his thinker has obstructions in it.

So I had to laugh agin when he ses: "Did you see what them Democrats an' Insurgents in Congress is goin' to put over you farmers in the Resh-iprocity matter?"

"I don't see's they can put anything worse over us than they have already," ses I. "They might put on a good size window tax, or raise the rate on tobacco. They might put some more tariff on barbed wire so's we could git it cheaper, or hit it a little higher on raw sugar so the trust would take off a cent on a pound."

"This is nothin' to laugh about," ses Tomkins. "It's a serious thing for you farmers. Them Democrats are goin' to make free trade in all kinds o' meats, fresh an' cured, an' in all kinds o' cattle too. Don't you see that the beef trust will go to Australia an' New Zealand an' South America an' buy up all the cattle an' slaughter 'em an' put 'em on the market here so's you farmers can't make a cent raisin' stock?"