

## PROGRESS IN GRAND JUNCTION

Grand Junction, Colo., June 17.

The Initiated Municipal Ownership Ordinance, heretofore presented and filed with the city council of Grand Junction, Colo., was yesterday withdrawn by its friends, and a new ordinance providing for the inventory and appraisal of the present electric light, power and gas plants, and for estimates of new and complete plants, was unanimously adopted by the city council. This ordinance will come up for second reading and final passage in ten days, and will undoubtedly pass.

The new ordinance is satisfactory to the friends of municipal ownership, and is the first step officially taken by the city towards municipal ownership of electric light, power and gas. It is the second step towards the ideal city, outlined in "Nature City," the other step having been taken in 1909 in adopting our charter, followed by a large program of constructing a mountain water system by the city, the paving of the streets, new sewers, cleansing and beautifying the streets and parks, new public buildings, fountains and other public improvements. The bill for a grant of 640 acres from the U. S. Government to the city of fine coal land only eight miles distant is still pending in Congress, the land having been reserved from private entry by the land department. Congressman Taylor writes that there is a fair prospect of its passage this session of Congress.

Our plan is at the next regular election to initiate an ordinance for the gradual exemption of personal property and improvements from municipal taxation, although we intend to move slowly and conservatively at all times.

JAMES W. BUCKLIN.

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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### A WORD FOR CHARITY.

Salem, Mass., June 14.

It seems time for someone to throw a kind word to the dog. The dog is Organized Charity, trotting humbly at the heels of the noble company of Social Reforms, picking up the crumbs that they, in their occasional lordly moments, drop, and taking the frequent kicks that they turn to bestow on it. Charity suffereth long and is kind. So a devout single taxer, who is yet a friend of dogs, may be permitted to say a word for it.

The ministrants of Organized Charity recognize that their service is temporary and, in the broad sense, superficial, that they but patch the holes in underlying conditions. They may be found supporting the propaganda of all the fundamental social reforms—which seldom reciprocate. They take up their work knowing that "There is no end—the end is death and madness," but yielding to the obvious need of immediate relief—an act of renunciation which, in its personal quality, compares favorably with that of espousing a profound and Utopian cause, and bearing its banner quite harmlessly through a respected life to a tranquil grave.

To say that self-respect is the price demanded by charity, one must have seen charity at its worst, not

at its best. I have watched for some time the Anathema Maranatha itself—the Charity Organization Society of a big city [Associated Charities of Boston] at work, and I am not yet through marvelling at the difference between what it is, and what the people who don't know think it is.

If one lives in the country, or a small town, he has daily helped and been helped by his neighbors. If he lives in a big city, he knows that there are no neighbors—that the people in adjoining houses, adjoining tenements, adjoining rooms, are as likely as not to remain strangers. Well, the Charity Organization Society—begun to keep various charitable institutions from treading on each other's heels—has become just a device for making neighbors. It distributes no doles, and the least of its services is to give food to the hungry. But its laborers find jobs for the jobless, treatment for the sick, guardians for the feeble-minded, friends for the lonely. Where the accidents of our industrial chaos have left a family literally without sufficient support, these workers collect the necessary pension from the agencies most nearly concerned—relatives, friends, the church, funds, public or private, provided to meet such emergencies—finally, if necessary, "benevolent individuals." But for one case where they do this, in nine cases they simply help a family in difficulties to stand on its own feet, finding suitable work for the husband, sobering up the errant son, fighting off the loan shark, getting the sick girl into a sanitarium, dropping a few hints on hygiene and cookery to the wife. People in trouble come to the agents of this Society without loss of self-respect, for they are offered nothing but neighborly advice and assistance, and their self-respect and self-reliance are encouraged by what they receive.

This organization, with no showy beneficences to appeal to emotion, depends for support on the efficiency and economy it can demonstrate. No private business could be run so well and cheaply, for good men who would demand their full worth for Capital, work here for love and a living; and I doubt if any public welfare department, with a hand in the treasury, and the authority of government behind all its decrees, could work so simply, so humbly and so well.

I do not know whether other cities are equally well served. As human institutions go, this is a good one, and a present well-spring in a desert that stands no chance of being irrigated by Singletax for many years to come. We owe it more crumbs and less kicks.

J. W. HELBURN.



### A LAND OWNER—NOTHING MORE.

La Porte, Texas, June 16.

The other day the papers in Houston, Texas, mentioned the fact, in speaking of the funeral services of a man who had just died in that city, that only thirteen people were in attendance. The man in question left a fortune estimated at \$10,000,000. True, he was somewhat of a recluse and no members of his family lived with him in Houston, but the fact that a man worth so many millions should pass away and only thirteen people should attend his funeral services is worthy of comment, and brings to the thinking man the question of why it should be so.

Often we learn of the vast concourse which pays the last tribute of respect to the memory of a man or a woman who has left nothing at all of this world's goods, but whose life has been a boon to humanity. Only the other day a vast throng followed all that was mortal of a little child from the modest home of its parents who could boast nothing of worldly wealth, but as a tribute to a little life that was all sunshine and happiness and to the parents whose first thoughts are the service they may render to others.

This man with the millions had merely accumulated lands from his earliest manhood, and the growth in population of the cities and the country in which his lands and lots were located had swelled his fortune from a meager beginning of fifty dollars, his first investment, to ten million dollars, the estimated value of the fortune he left, and he carried with him nothing, not even tears of wife and children, for he had none, but died alone, as he had lived. The vast estate he left goes to distant relatives. Here was a vast wealth not created by him, not used by him, not enjoyed by him and not carried away by the man who knew so little of real living that he is not missed by one when he is gone. How much longer will it be possible under our laws for a man to take such toll of the heritage of humanity, the lands that were created for homes for all?

J. W. CANADA.



### IN MEMORIAM.

Boston, June 19.

The Executive Committee of the Anti-Imperialist League has now to mourn the death of the widow of Edwin Burritt Smith, whose name the League had the honor of enrolling among its Vice-Presidents after the death of her husband—the first citizen of Chicago and one of the early heroes of the cause.

Mrs. Smith's sympathy and support were continued for our work, as it was for all the reforms, educational, political and social in which her husband was a leader and in which she had been wise counsellor and efficient helpmate.

In expressing its own sorrow and in extending sincere condolence to their sons, it may be permitted to invoke for them the worthy heritage of noble parents promised from generation to generation.

ERVING WINSLOW, Secretary.

## NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, June 23, 1914.

### Congressional News.

The Secretary of State, Mr. William J. Bryan, appeared before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on June 17, to urge ratification of the Treaty with Colombia, which expresses regret for certain incidents connected with formation of the

Republic of Panama and agrees to pay Colombia \$25,000,000. Mr. Bryan declared that the Treaty would restore good feeling between the United States and Colombia as well as between Colombia and Panama. It would furthermore, he said, regain for the United States its lost prestige with Latin America. The expression of regret was merely a confirmation of one tendered by the American Minister under Taft's administration. [See current volume, page 543.]



What is said to be the terms of a treaty with Nicaragua now before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was published on June 20 by the Chicago Tribune. It grants the United States proprietary rights necessary for construction of an inter-oceanic canal, leases for 99 years, two Caribbean islands and a base on the Gulf of Fonseca, gives the United States the right to veto any treaty with a foreign power entered into by Nicaragua and authorizes intervention by the United States in case of internal trouble, or difficulty with a foreign nation. In return the United States agrees to pay Nicaragua \$3,000,000. [See vol. xvi, pages 753, 989, current volume, page 86.]



The Senate on June 19 ordered an investigation of the use of stationery of two Senate Committees in promoting the Gold Hill Consolidated Mining Company. The names of Senator Overman of North Carolina and of Senator Chilton of West Virginia were used in this promotion. Both declare this to have been unauthorized and without their knowledge, and it was on the demand of Senator Overman that the investigation was ordered.



The La Follette Seamen's bill was reported to the House on June 19 by the Committee on Merchant Marine. As reported the provision for life boats in lake steamers operating within three miles of shore is amended so as to require only enough life boats for one-half of those on board. [See current volume, page 586.]



The House on June 18 unseated Representative Dyer of Missouri, Republican, and seated his contesting opponent Michael J. Gill, Democrat. The vote for unseating Dyer was 146 to 98 and was along party lines. To seat Gill the vote was 126 to 108, many Democrats voting with the minority.



Following recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior, Franklin K. Lane, the House Committee on Public Lands reported on June 16, a bill for conservation of water power still remaining under Federal control. It provides that all water power shall be leased for no longer a term than 50