

have bred distress calling for charitable relief. If all charity were dispensed by the State instead of private institutions there would be a stronger disposition to abolish the need of it. The mothers' pension act is a step in that direction. Perhaps that explains why opposition comes from sources where no objection is urged to other forms of Charity as a substitute for Justice. s. d.



Feeding Europe.

America has been succoring the people of outraged Belgium almost from the beginning of the war. Later it was called upon to supply devastated Poland and harried Serbia. It is now announced that representatives of the United States will be permitted to inspect the prison camps in Great Britain, Germany and Austria, and presumably France and Russia, to learn and report the condition of the prisoners and "distribute supplies among the prisoners." Will the logic of this lead to our supporting the civil population of the belligerent countries, while the men continue the fight? s. c.



Women at The Hague.

When Victor Yarros was asked, during the darkest days of the first Duma—after it had been stripped of almost the last vestige of authority—what he thought of the prospects of representative government in Russia, he answered that it did not matter how much a tyrannical government oppressed the members, so long as the Duma itself was allowed to sit and go through the forms of legislating. "For," said he, "when the Russian people have come to think of the Duma as a part of the natural order, they will gradually obtain control of political affairs." The same thing is true of the Peace Conferences at The Hague. The announcement of the first Conference, called by the Czar of Russia, was hailed with derision by the jingoes and militarists. Its apparently meager results provoked merriment. But the first Conference led to a second Conference, to a permanent Court of Arbitration, to the settlement of international disputes, until today The Hague has fixed a new thought in the minds of men; and that thought will continue to grow until it overshadows all nations.



Nothing has happened since the breaking out of the present war that is likely to have greater influence upon the destinies of mankind than the calling by certain women of Holland of an inter-

national conference of women from neutral and belligerent countries to meet at The Hague in April. This conference will get such attention as no other has; and even though hostilities do not cease at once the world-thought will receive an indelible impress from its conclusions. The glories of war have departed, the profit of strife has proved vain; nothing is left but its sordidness, its cruelty, and its shame. Men will welcome an excuse to turn from their senseless course. That excuse will be found in its most acceptable form in the plea of the women. It needs not the gift of prophecy to see that when peace does return the Court of The Hague will be a power in the world; and among the judges who pass upon international affairs will be women. s. c.



A Useful General.

Whether Brigadier General Hugh L. Scott, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, could with the forces at hand repel an invasion of the combined nations of Europe may never be known; but he has demonstrated his ability to do what few other generals can do: Make peace without killing his opponents. He has repeatedly pacified Indians who have taken to the warpath. Recently he settled the trouble between the Villa and Carranza forces, who had persisted in firing across the American line. And now in Utah he has succeeded in quieting the Piutes, who had taken to the warpath.



What must the European generals think of a country that sends its Chief of Staff to pacify Mexicans and Indians? What, indeed, must the militarists of our own country think of such undignified proceedings? How much better it would have been, they will think, to have sent an army of several thousand men to round up those Indians in Utah, shoot some, imprison others, and so impress upon their minds the fact that no one can tamper with the dignity of Uncle Samuel. By throwing an army into Mexico we could have taught those miserable people that shooting across the border was a serious thing.



How does our General pacify men without killing them? Why did the Mexicans stop firing across the line at the request of General Scott, when they would not in the face of the army? Why did these Indians yield themselves to the law at the request of this man whom they had never seen, and whose language they could not

speak? It was simply because they believed General Scott broad enough to get their point of view, and honest enough to do them justice. The fact that he went among them with only a single companion was evidence that he trusted them. And when he came upon the Indians who had fled from the officers of the law, he did not begin threatening them with the awful consequences of defying the United States government. It is his custom to ask for food and drink, and to smoke the peace pipe with them. He asks them for the story of their troubles; and he listens with such sympathetic attention that they feel they are talking to a friend. And they are. That, indeed, is the secret of his success. He makes them feel that he is their friend; and they follow his advice because they believe it to be the counsel of a friend. Ah, if only there were some means to get civilized people to adopt the Scott method!

S. C.



Edward Twitchell.

To the Singletaxers of Massachusetts particularly, the passing of Mr. Edward Twitchell removes a familiar and long honored name. Three years of attendance at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., completed his school outfit, but among his native endowments were included, two priceless gifts not always acquired at school, viz: a retentive memory and a natural love for accuracy. These to an unusual degree characterized his long life. What he once learned was not only ever ready for use, but his statements of facts and dates were almost sure to be correct. His mind was well stored with gems from the best authors, as well as many eloquent passages from the world's greatest orators, and he was always prepared to give a talking movie of anti-slavery days, on a stage thronged by a stately procession of men and women, many of whom he had known personally, from Garrison to Phillips and Sumner. Cradled in the Abolition movement, he early imbibed the enthusiasm and inspiration of that cause and four years of the storm and stress of Civil War was an education that more than anything else helped to fashion and confirm the courage and sterling integrity of his character. This experience taught him to stand firm against institutional wrongs. Mr. Twitchell was an original member of the Massachusetts Singletax League, serving continually on its Executive Committee and many years as its Treasurer, so long as health permitted. He and his wife, Eliza Stowe Twitchell, in their devotion to principle, were as the twin lights of the Isle of Shoals, trusty guides to many

a mariner, and to an old sailor, like the writer, his passing is, veritably, like the "dousing of another glim."

C. B. FILLEBROWN.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

CHAOS IN MEXICO.

Mexico, March 9, 1915.

I.

Since the exit of Huerta last July, political events in Mexico have been so kaleidoscopic as to bewilder the onlooker; both as to their inward significance and ultimate outcome. A rapid review of what has occurred will first be in order.

The triumphal entry of the Constitutionalist army into Mexico City last August was cheered to the echo by the thronging populace, and even those who remembered that the thousands of horses of the long lines of irregular cavalry had practically all been "commandeered" from their original owners, without giving even an I.O.U. in exchange, had few forebodings amid the general rejoicing that peace and liberalism were again supreme in the nation's capital. The next few days only heightened the first good impressions. A number of pickpockets, caught red-handed, were summarily executed as a warning to evildoers; and the wholesale mustering out of the captured Federal army, which soon began in Pueblo and other cities, was conducted in a humane and generous manner.

The first shock to the public confidence came with the application of what was euphoniously called "intervention"; and which consisted in the military occupation of the property of the rich, on the plea that the latter had been Huertistas. The intervened were given no chance to defend their rights; and in many cases their only crime was the possession of country estates, abounding in horses and cattle needed by the army, and of luxurious city homes, coveted by the Carranza officers as residences for themselves and their numerous male and female satellites. The ruin of valuable libraries and artistic furnishings by the occupation of these boorish and dishonest officers, was not justifiable on any ground of military necessity, for the public buildings and hotels offered ample accommodation for everyone; but it was merely the first symptom of the lawless license which soon was seen to prevail throughout the Carranza forces.

As the mania for speeding along the asphalted streets of the capital could be satisfied in only a few cases by the automobiles and turnouts of the intervened rich, the unprovided Carranza officers soon began to seize any car or horse that struck their fancy, and finally got so bold as to steal the equipages of several foreign legations. When Gov. Dominguez of the Federal District issued a decree against this growing scandal it was negated next day with Carranza's sanction, and, after the governor resigned in consequence, the true state of affairs began to be perceived. Carranza was only nominally the "First Chief"; the real power lay with Generals Alvaro Obregon and Pablo Gonzalez, and a small clique of affiliated generals, any one