

chances for wholesale destruction by fire." Well, if a fire department depended upon a policy of terrorism as the means of preventing wholesale destruction by fire, Mr. Roosevelt's illustration would present a parallel case. But that is not the way a fire department works, and if it did, it would probably be as great a failure in preventing fires as military preparedness has proven to be in preventing war.

To further establish his point Mr. Roosevelt brings up the case of nations with greater or less military establishments which were overwhelmed in war by other nations with still greater establishments. Their "unpreparedness," he says did not prevent war. It certainly did not, nor did the preparedness of the victorious nation. Aside from underlying causes, such as protective tariffs, these wars were due to the fact that both sides were imbued with Rooseveltian doctrines concerning military preparedness, which logically leads to forcing war by the prepared nation upon the unprepared one, when there is ground to suspect that the latter is but awaiting a similar opportunity to attack its opponent.

But Roosevelt has made real progress in one respect. He favors Philippine independence, not in the far future, but "at an early moment." To be sure he does not advocate it, because it is the right thing to do, be the consequences what they may. He only favors it because he sees that "the Philippines from a military standpoint are a source of weakness." He is still an imperialist in theory, but has become an anti-imperialist in practice. However his progress has been in the right direction. Who knows but that he may yet see practical reasons for favoring an anti-militarist policy while still swearing fealty to militarist views, or he may even at some future time advise institution of absolute free trade as the best means of putting into effect his ideas of a "scientific protective tariff."

S. D.

Lawyerless Justice.

Our hodge-podge system of rules and precedents, bristling at every point with convenient technicalities, that masquerades as law, is finally yielding to the spirit of the age; and there is promise that it will be reduced at a not distant day to some semblance of order and justice. Chicago, which has already replaced the old system of petty justices with municipal judges, a juvenile court, a court of domestic relations, and an all-night court,

is now planning to set up a lawyerless court. Whatever may be said regarding the toll of the middleman in trade, the criticism falls with peculiar force upon the middleman in law. As religion becomes ecclesiasticised through the natural selfishness of churchmen who try to make a living out of the church, so the courts have become formalized through the personal interests of the lawyers, and principles laid down for the guidance of human conduct are lost in a labyrinth of rules and forms.

Justice is not such a difficult thing to determine when acts between man and man are considered; but when attempts are made to harmonize every separate and distinct individual act with every separate and distinct individual act of an ever-changing train of human events man aspires to an impossible achievement, and attempts to attain a useless ideal. In nothing has democracy shown greater limitations than in popular adjudications. Every established evil is the perquisite of some hanger-on of the court, and any attempt to remove it is fought with all the tenacity of the beneficiary of privilege. The introduction of the Torrens system of land title registry was not looked upon with friendly eyes by attorneys because its use would deprive them of a considerable revenue for examining abstracts of title. The same is true of the workingmen's compensation act, and of similar measures that simplify the adjustment of claims. And it will be true of the new court to be set up in Chicago, in which cases involving less than fifty dollars will be disposed of without the meddling of attorneys. Cases are limited to fifty dollars in the beginning in order that the new venture may be set on its feet with the least possible opposition; but it is hoped that it will work so well that the limit may be raised to five hundred dollars.

This is but another step in the work that is going on throughout the country. It found expression in Los Angeles, where a man charged with crime is not only prosecuted by a state's attorney, but is protected from injustice by a public defender. There is no reason why this work should not go on until the courts in practice secure what the law professes in theory. The people of the country, given a system of law divested of useless formalities, irrelevant precedents, and maddening delays, a system of law in which justice shall be so speedy and so clear as to appeal to the human conscience as well as the understanding,

will be saved nine-tenths of the present litigation, and they will have a respect for the law that is now entirely wanting.

S. C.



A Bad Record.

Lest we forget, in gloating over our achievements as a nation for the past year, it will be well to think occasionally of the things we should like to forget. One of the things that reminds us that we still have a long way to go on the upward road is our record of personal violence. We are a passionate, impatient people, disposed to tolerate evils while in good humor, but swift to wreak vengeance when aroused to anger. Individuality, the most precious of our traits of character, has not yet been bounded within recognized limits; and each man is too prone to be his own judge. When in good humor he is too tolerant through generosity; when in anger he strikes without due reflection.



The Chicago Tribune, which makes a practice of publishing in its annual issue at the end of the year the record of life tragedies throughout the United States, gives the number of homicides for 1914 as 8,251. That means that 8,251 human beings in this country met their death at the hands of other human beings. Nor was that exceptional. The year before the number was 8,902, and for 1912 it was 9,152. The number of suicides, or persons who died by their own hand, was 13,965. In 1913 the number was 13,103, in 1912, 12,981, and in 1911 the number was 12,242. But even more regrettable than these monstrous totals is the record of lynchings. Last year 54 persons were killed by mobs. Earlier years show such large totals—in 1892 it was 205—that the slowly dwindling tale of shame may offer a little encouragement. The number of persons executed according to law in 1914 was 74—only twenty more than were executed in defiance of law.



Claiming to stand at the head of civilized nations our record of personal violence exceeds that of any other race or nation. A little reflection upon this fact may be conducive to a contriteness of heart more in keeping with our professions.

S. C.



Peabody as Trade Commissioner.

Gratifying, if true, is the report that President Wilson will appoint as one of the new Interstate Trade Commission George Foster Peabody. That

will ensure at least one member of the commission possessed of the economic knowledge needed to deal efficiently with the problem of trusts and commercial combinations. Such an appointment is absolutely necessary to make the work of the commission of any practical use. If made, it will be an important addition to the list of President Wilson's good selections.

S. D.



Charity's Confession of Failure.

Confidence in charity and in charitable organizations as the best instruments to deal with poverty, has long impeded progress toward economic justice. Conditions existing at present ought to give such confidence a severe jolt. Charity representatives are confessing failure of their "scientific" charitable measures to provide properly for even the "worthy" poor. So conservative a paper as the New York Evening Post published on December 29, in a prominent place, some admissions of charity representatives. These admissions show the impossibility of providing jobs for all applicants. There are at least 150,000 unemployed in New York City, of whom at least 56 per cent are employable. One representative goes so far as to say: "I think that every man or organization who can invent a job should do so." This charitable man must be the same who thought his view of a forest was blocked by the trees. He sees all about him men in want of nearly everything that human labor can produce. He knows that these men are able and willing to produce these things. He knows, or can easily learn by investigating, that there are on hand natural resources from which all the material they need can be produced. And yet he helplessly pleads that some one should "invent a job." Jobs are not to be invented, at least not useful jobs. The needs of mankind and the resources of nature provide all the jobs that there are. Until every human want is satisfied there remains a job unfilled. The difficulty is that monopoly of natural resources blocks the way to most of these jobs. This obstacle cannot be removed by charity or "scientific" methods of charitable organizations.



Has it ever occurred to the charitable organizations of New York City and of other cities to take a census of the unused or partially used lands within or near the city and to figure how many unemployed could get jobs were these lands put to the use to which their value shows they should be put? Perhaps if they do so they will see where there are potential jobs for all of the unemployed.