

among themselves as to a division of the booty; and we find the general coal sales agent of the Philadelphia & Reading (the Goliath of the coal trust) testifying under oath before the Interstate Commerce Commission as to what happened if the Reading cut its regular price, "that they denied it if they did,"—not even, it seems, maintaining that honor which is supposed to exist among thieves—i. e., thieves without the pale of the law.

What is it but graft when the Big Four who compose the beef trust get special freight rates which enable them to drive competitors out of business?

What is it but graft when heads of departments, chiefs and deputy chiefs of bureaus in Washington use public carriages for pleasure and to maintain their social "prestige"?

What was it but graft when those who purchased United States bonds during the Civil war in depreciated currency, years later "induced" Congress to make them redeemable in gold?

What was it but graft when the employer of a recent law partner of a President entered into a secret deal with the head of the government to issue bonds to his syndicate at from eight to twelve per cent. less than they were worth?

What is it but graft when this same leader in haute finance organizes the United States Steel Corporation and invites a confiding public to purchase "securities," three-quarters, if not four-fifths of which represent nothing but water? How many thousands of ignorant but innocent investors, relying upon the "high character," "deserved reputation," "commanding influence," "great ability," "financial stability" and "unblemished business honor" of these men have been ruined by having these securities foisted upon them? All the graft of the Machens and Beavers who have been in government employ for a score of years, including even the "star-route" frauds, looks puny and insignificant beside the colossal sums squeezed out of the people through the floating and manipulation of Steel-Corporation stock, to say nothing of the scores of millions wrung from the people in inflated prices charged for its products because it was "protected" by a tariff of from \$7.84 a ton and upwards on its manufactures.

What was it but graft when the Western Union Telegraph Company supplied poolrooms with racing news in defiance of law, charging some five million dollars for the service which perhaps cost them a tenth of that sum? When burglars are caught with the goods on them they are not per-

mitted to go their way because they insist that hereafter they will be law-abiding. But then among that profession there are no multi-millionaire "philanthropists."

What is it but graft when the special-privilege corporations of New York City—this same Western Union, the telephone, the gas and electric, the surface and elevated railroad companies—refuse to pay even the totally inadequate and ridiculously low rate of taxation levied against them, so that according to a recent issue of the New York World they owe the city some nineteen millions of dollars for arrears of taxes?

I was recently told of an incident that occurred in the home city of The Arena. A Boston firm, a regular shipper to the extent of several hundred packages a week by the Adams Express Company, had been paying forty cents a package. A friend in another business happening to drop in and seeing a pile of packages ready for shipment asked: "How much apiece do you pay on them?" On being told, he said: "What! I don't know anything about your business, but I'll take a contract right now to ship them for you by the same company for thirty-five cents." To test the matter, his name was pasted over that of the actual shipper and he proceeded to the express office, asking for a quotation for several hundred packages a week. On their quoting a rate of twenty-eight cents he said: "I guess I'll send them by mail. The only reason I wanted to ship them by your company was to get an individual receipt for each package." He was then offered a twenty-three-cent rate. It is needless to say that the real shippers were astounded when the rate at which the company were prepared to carry their packages was reported to them. But in view of the tremendous difference in the charges for sending packages by "parcels-post" abroad—which rates are frequently less than one-half what Americans have to pay for the privilege of having a government function exploited for private benefit—it is not surprising that the express "ring" is able to shunt all investigation of the subject and to kill off all bills for an American parcels-post. The railroads and express companies have too many direct and indirect representatives in the House and the Senate to permit any legislation of that nature even being considered in committee, let alone reported to and acted upon on the floor of Congress; the "graft" is too big.

What is it but graft when the school-

book-trust is able to force its books into the schools and keep other books out? . . .

Let us have an end to the idea that he who corrupts the public officials (directly or indirectly) and thus secures a valuable special privilege, thereby obtaining millions, has "made" his money by business acumen, enterprise and foresight, while the few hundreds secured by petty swindlers through collusion with corrupt contractors have secured theirs by "graft." Whoever obtains something for nothing, whether it takes the form of "water" in an interstate railroad or a trolley line, in a telegraph or telephone company, in an electric-light or gas company; whether it is an unloading of the "securities" of a steel-trust, the milking of the public through a tariff on sugar, woolens, steel, salt or borax; whether it is in the form of a Standard Oil monopoly, or a monopoly of copper; whether it takes the form of forestalling population (either with or without advance information of what is projected), and thereby reaping an enormous harvest in "unearned increment,"—all are "grafting" upon the body-politic.

Those who deny freedom for others deserve it not themselves, and under a just God cannot long retain it.—Abraham Lincoln.

I speak not of forcible annexation, for that cannot be thought of. That, by our code of morals, would be criminal aggression.—President McKinley, April 11, 1898.

Wealth is indeed accumulated labor, but one man usually performeth labor and another the accumulating;—and this by the wise is called the Division of Labor.—Economic Nuggets.

BOOKS

THE COST OF SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

If every young man who is now entering college would study this little book by John P. Altgeld (Chicago: Hamersmark Publishing Co.), and could be made to feel its truth, the next generation would show a great change. It touches the very spot of modern sins in business. For what is the basis of monopolies, watered stocks, and the various forms of business speculations and gambings if not the desire of getting something for nothing? The fever is not a new one, but it seems to have become heightened by modern opportunities and lack of opportunities.

And the trouble is that we do not look upon the desire as criminal and destructive both towards ourselves and

The Public

is a weekly review which prints in concise and plain terms, with lucid explanations and without editorial bias, all the news of the world of historical value. It is also an editorial paper. Though it abstains from mingling editorial opinions with its news accounts, it has opinions of a pronounced character, based upon the principles of radical democracy, which, in the columns reserved for editorial comment, it expresses fully and freely, without favor or prejudice, without fear of consequences, and without hope of discreditable reward. Yet it makes no pretensions to infallibility, either in opinions or in statements of fact; it simply aspires to a deserved reputation for intelligence and honesty in both. Besides its editorial and news features, the paper contains a department of original and selected miscellany, in which appear articles and extracts upon various subjects, verse as well as prose, chosen alike for their literary merit and their wholesome human interest. Familiarity with THE PUBLIC will commend it as a paper that is not only worth reading, but also worth filing.

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A BANQUET will be given in honor of the Rev. H. S. Bigelow on November 21st, at Kinsley's. For further information, Miss Nellie Carlin, 1302 Ashland Block, Tel. Central 922—or Dr. Anna M. Lund, 1014 Masonic Temple, Tel. Central 3391, Automatic 7691. Speakers and programme will be announced later.

does not please the conventional opinions of commonplace readers. It is not so much the yellow that displeases as the editorial page. Rev. Sam Jones says: "Folks are not usually mad at what they are mad at."

J. H. D.

With reference to Mr. Bishop's letter in the Evening Post, which has been already noticed in The Public (p. 356), one further remark is suggested: "I am puzzled," said Mr. Bishop, "to understand the change that comes over men who are put upon the apex of official position." In solving the puzzle it is only necessary to consider the distinction between man as man, and man as official. Some men are great as men; other men are big only because of the place they occupy. If the man is greater than the position, then, of course, he is not changed by the position—certainly not as to matters of conviction. If the position is greater than the man, then, of course, any change may be expected in him that may suit the circumstances.

J. H. D.

THE DEMOCRATIC PACE-MAKER.

towards others. We do not see and do not care that it violates what Gov. Altgeld calls "the eternal law of equivalents, the universal law of balances." This law has been proclaimed by the philosophers and prophets of all ages, but we do not yet believe it. Nineteen centuries ago the greatest of moral philosophers, the ex-slave Epictetus, said: "Nothing is to be had for nothing," but we do not believe it. We do not believe in the truth of the title of this wise little book, that there is a Cost of Something for Nothing.

The cost is often remote and abstract. It touches intangible results, like character, and comes frequently no nearer home than public injury, which is too vague to impress us. If there is one thing in which our congregations need moral instruction it is this, and it might be suggested that preachers the country over would do well to devote a special Sunday, as is sometimes done for other causes, to preaching on this subject—the sin of desiring to get something for nothing and the ultimate cost of this desire.

Meantime, let us be thankful for this little volume—the parting words of one of the greatest and most widely misunderstood men of our day. "At this time," says Mr. Darrow in a prefatory note, "when every one is intent on getting something for nothing, these words of a statesman and philosopher should not pass unheeded."

J. H. DILLARD.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

—"The Supremacy of Jesus." By Joseph Henry Crooker. Boston: American Unitarian Association. Price, 80 cents net. To be reviewed.

PAMPHLETS.

Rev. Dr. R. A. Holland, the eloquent St. Louis preacher, has issued in pamphlet form, through the Young Churchman company, Milwaukee, his views in opposition to the use of the Revised Version of the Bible. The pamphlet is entitled Which Bible, and the author argues most forcibly in favor of retaining the King James translation. "Every word of it," he says, "has the supreme literary value of the supreme classic of the modern world. Its very errors and archaisms make a part of its historic and literary integrity." This may be true, and yet we may value, as being the best of commentaries, if for no other reason, the more modern translations, such as the Twentieth Century New Testament, at which Dr. Holland casts a sneer. The Twentieth Century New Testament—not the Twentieth Century Bible, as Dr. Holland mistakenly announces it—has had a deservedly large sale. It is a work of genuine merit and clears up many difficult passages, notably in the Epistles.—J. H. D.

PERIODICALS.

In the October number of the Ladies' Home Journal Mr. Mabie speaks, with more vehemence than is to be expected from his courtly pen, against the evil of yellow journalism. The trouble is that yellow journalism has not been defined. If two or three daily newspapers in the whole country be excepted, there is not one which is not guilty, in one way or another, of what is commonly called sensationalism. It has come to be a sort of fad to cry "yellow" at any paper that