

story. J. B. Ryder is the richest man upon earth, whose very breath is law to the lords of money, a demented and degenerate genius of finance, enabled through his influence over public opinion and the law, by subsidizing and corrupting the press, the courts, the legislatures and the executive of the land, to manipulate the production and distribution of the nation's wealth to his private gain and to secure immunity while plundering a race. He is feared and hated of all humankind. This is the "Lion." In Ryder's besom trail through the courts, he encounters an obstacle to a momentous railway deal in the stern and almost obsolete integrity of Judge Rossmore, who had rendered a judgment unfavorable to the Interests. Ryder coolly determines to invalidate this decision by wrecking the reputation of the judge. Some time previously upon his advice Judge Rossmore had invested a small sum of money in the stock of the successful litigant but had completely forgotten that fact when the case was before him for hearing, and upon this foundation impeachment charges, secretly instigated by Ryder, are laid before the Senate. Now Ryder has decreed his son in marriage to the daughter of Senator Roberts, a tool and leader of his cohorts in that body, but the young man defiantly loves Judge Rossmore's daughter. She is an embodiment of the intellectual and physical graces, and basks in the smiles of a world acclaiming her story "The Octopus"—a relentless characterization of Ryder and his methods—as a great American novel. This is the "Mouse." Her battle with the "Lion" is royal, dramatic and replete with intensive episodes. The woman's fidelity, love and daring match the cold intellect and iron will of the master of the world's money. At the last moment he yields to his son's happiness and to his esteem for the only human being that ever effectively opposed him. In obedience to his bidding the Senate withdraws the charges against Judge Rossmore. The "Mouse" is victor. This story of American life is novelized from the play of the same name. Mr. Klein has brilliantly executed the difficult task of adolescenting the play into a novel without impairing its temperament or vitality.

W. H. STACKPOLE.

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THE CIVIC ADVANCE.

A Decade of Civic Development. By Charles Zueblin, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1905.

What have our American cities been doing in the last ten years? What progress? Not industrially, nor politically, nor even economically—but simply materially? How do they look as compared with ten years ago? Incidentally we may dwell on the spirit which has brought about results. But our point of view is very matter-of-fact and simple. How about the house-keeping of it all? Streets well-paved, drained and lighted? Public buildings beautiful as well as comfortable? Is there play-room? Are our cities pleasanter, more healthful dwelling-places than formerly? To all of these questions Mr. Zueblin cheerfully answers "Yes;" and proceeds to cite innumerable instances of method and result. He calls our attention to the general demand for unity and completeness of plan for each city's future. Harrisburg and Washington are shining examples. Em-

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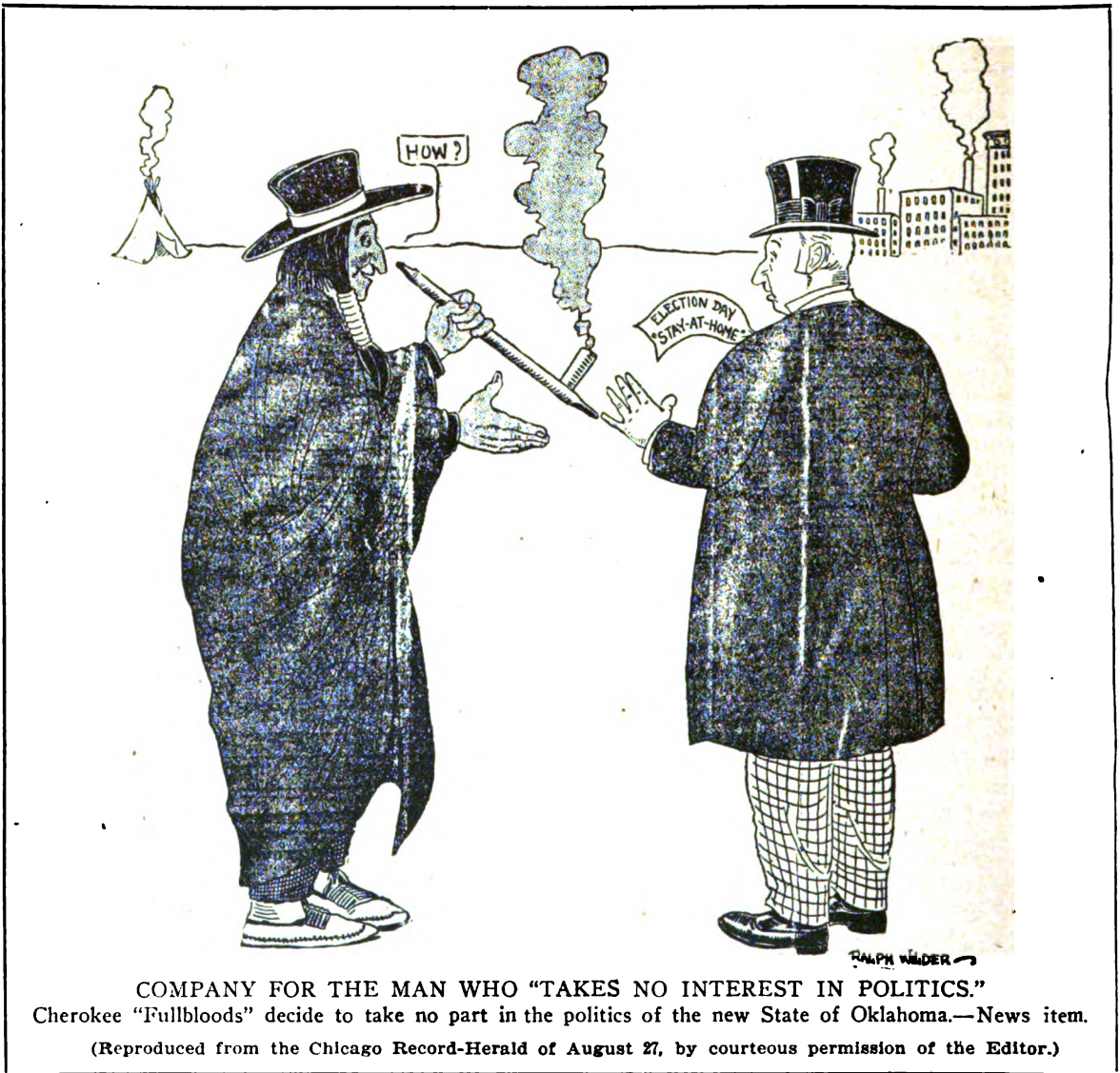
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[Reprinted from THE ARENA, May, June, and July, 1906]

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phasis is also laid on the great results of the Columbian Exposition as a living picture of how aesthetic a model city might be.

We might be critical if we wished. We could confess that several times when our author lost his feeling for style in his enthusiasm over quantity of good things, we were reminded of the Catalogue of Ships. But it would be a most despondent man who as he closed the book would not rise up to work for his town.

ANGELINE LOESCH.

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CHICAGO HISTORY.

Chicago Past and Present. By S. R. Winchell. Published by A. Flanagan Company, Chicago.

This book professes to be only a manual, and its size is so small and its scope so wide that it could not well be more. It deals in outline with the history, government, officials, etc., of Chicago, and

somewhat with the government of larger civic units, even with the national government. Only accuracy and convenient arrangement can be demanded of such a book, and in those particulars this little volume seems to be unexceptionable.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—White Fang. By Jack London, author of "The Call of the Wild," "The Sea Wolf," etc. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York and London. Price \$1.50.

—Fork and Spade Husbandry. 51 Pounds a year from Two Acres of Land. By John Sillett (The Suffolk Draper). Cottage Farm Series. No. 2. Published by A. C. Fifield, 44 Fleet St., London, 1906. Price Six pence net.

—The Bishops as Legislators. A Record of the Speeches and Votes of the Bishops in the House of Lords during the Nineteenth Century. By Joseph Clayton. With a Preface by Rev. Stewart D. Headlam. Published by A.