

nor bad women now have a chance to vote. Give all of them the chance all men have, and justice will have been done. It will then be a woman's own fault and choice (just as it is now man's) if she stays away from the polls. With the chief argument that she will be insulted at the polls and the fine gloss of her femininity worn away I have little patience. If our men are a mob to insult women, let us deprive them of every right incident to manhood. I have never conceived a half-baked intellect and an haremlike docility and imbecility to be true womanhood. Neither womanhood or manhood is lost by freedom. Much that is mistaken for womanhood is sodden ignorance and pitiful helplessness.

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POLITICS.

From the Illinois State Register, of Springfield, for July 27, 1906.

Judge W. M. Blackman, candidate for congress in one of the Louisiana districts, has suddenly, in disgust, withdrawn from the race and declared himself out of politics because politics is "too rotten."

Do you suppose he quit because he couldn't win, or because he was really of the belief that politics was too bad for him and that he was too good for politics?

No man is too good for politics. The stronger the man morally, the more certain his honor and honesty, and the more reliable integrity the more essential is it that such man be active in politics. Such men in politics are in a position to become public benefactors. It is selfishness for a man to keep out of politics because he feels that he is too good for politics. It is because the better class of citizens neglect their duty at the polls in politics that thugs, rowdies, crooks, confidence men, "bosses" and grafters wield the political power they do in some cities. Men who keep out of politics because they are too good for politics place in the hands of the professional crooks their most powerful weapon. It is only because the better class of citizens often stand back and let the grafters assume control of the political machinery that officers become mere chattels for the "gangs." It is in this way that the people are robbed of their sacred rights. It is in this way that officials are put in office who have no respect for law, but who seek to hold office because there is a big chance for graft in it.

These are political facts with which every voter is familiar. Every voter knows how some officials dodge responsibility. We all know that men often get into office who have no comprehension of the sanctity of public trust. We all know how certain classes of lawlessness have been protected by such officials, how crime has flourished under their very noses, how they have encouraged unscrupulous "healers" in pernicious political activity. These are facts with which every voter is familiar.

These facts make it imperative that honest men, men of integrity and men of character be active in politics, not as office-seekers perhaps, not as a means of obtaining power or gaining control of any political machinery, but as a means of benefiting mankind generally by aiding in the election of clean men—officials who will administer the law honestly and fearlessly.

No man is too good to perform a public service. No man is too good to benefit his fellow man. If politics is "rotten" then it is the duty of good citizens to remove that "rotteness" by going to the polls themselves and working with their neighbors to nominate men of character and honor, then to elect such men.

Take the honest men out of politics and what will happen to the country? What is happening to it now because of the vast number of dishonest men wielding power in politics? Whence this startling prevalence of graft?

Is the citizen who does not do his duty in politics honest to his fellow man?

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SAN FRANCISCO'S GREATEST OBSTACLE TO REHABILITATION.

Judge James G. Maguire in a Recent Speech Before the Friendly Club, San Francisco, as Reported in the San Francisco Star of August 18.

At our last monthly banquet, I confidently predicted the speedy rehabilitation of our beloved city. I then complimented the Building Trades Council upon its patriotic resolution pledging its membership not to take any mercenary advantage of the misfortunes of their fellow men; I complimented the merchants and other wealth producers and wealth distributors upon their generally expressed determination to the same effect, and, believing them all to have been absolutely sincere in their assurances of self-denial and of co-operation for the common good, I repeat those compliments to-night. Landlordism, the great parasite of modern civilization, has thwarted their patriotic purposes. The avarice of the landlords of San Francisco has come to the front as the greatest of all obstacles to the rehabilitation of the city. The merchants and manufacturers of the city were ready to rebuild it, even to pay a reasonable ground rent for the privilege of rebuilding, and, in addition, to turn the permanent buildings which they would erect over to the landlords at the end of a reasonable term of lease; but the landlords of the burned district, with a few honorable exceptions, drove them away from that district by arbitrarily raising ground rents to rates far above those prevailing before the fire, and the landlords of the unburned districts are forcing labor to demand higher wages and merchants to demand higher prices by arbitrarily raising rents of all houses and business places beyond the ability of tenants to pay, at the old rates of wages and prices. They are taxing the people to the last extremity of their ability to pay, and, of course, giving absolutely nothing in return for the increased tax.

While thus obstructing rehabilitation, landlordism is crying out for cheap labor and cheap materials to rebuild the city. It asks for sacrifices from every interest but its own. Yet the fact remains, so broadly written that he who runs may read, that the landlords are the only class of our people who will profit financially by the rebuilding of the city. Rebuilding will cause land values "to go up by leaps and bounds," as recently stated by Mr. Howell, but it will not cause the wages of labor, nor the profits of manufacturers or commerce, to increase. All other classes have a sentimental interest in rebuilding San Fran-

cisco; the landlords alone have a financial interest in it.

A few years ago I read an advertisement published by a land agency here, which illustrates the situation very truly. It read: "Within ten years the population of San Francisco will increase to half a million, and land values will correspondingly increase, but you will get no benefit from this increase of population unless you own land on this peninsula."

If, however, the substantial improvement of all land in the city, up to or beyond the requirements of its population were accomplished, the people would get the benefit of reduced rents, under the universal law of supply and demand. Getting cheap labor and cheap materials will not accomplish this result, unless combined with some means of discouraging speculation in idle land. If all tariff taxes were removed from building materials and if they were transported free of cost to the city, the landlords would increase their ground rents to cover the saving in the cost of improving and using their land.

But suppose these things would benefit the city generally, what right have we to ask the general government to forego its tariff taxes on building materials or to ask the transportation companies to reduce their freight charges, while we propose to pounce upon those very materials with local taxes of two per cent. per annum from the moment they are landed here until they are destroyed?

Would it not be much better and more logical for us to co-operate with the general government and the transportation companies, by exempting all such materials, and the buildings constructed therewith, from local taxation, either perpetually, or for a term of years? This exemption of buildings from local taxation would offer a great inducement to the investment of capital in substantial permanent improvements, and the corresponding increase in the taxes on land values (which would not increase the tax burden of the improver) would tend to force the speculative holders of idle land to improve it; thus conserving and promoting the public good.

Nothing, in my opinion, could more surely or more speedily bring about the rehabilitation of San Francisco, than such a change in our system of State and local taxation. Nothing that has yet been suggested would do so much to give all our people a substantial share in the benefits of the "new deal" to which we all look forward with joyful expectation.

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The stoical scheme of supplying your wants by lopping off your desires, is like cutting off our feet when we want shoes.—Swift.

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Whurtz—"How do you do—are you enjoying good health?"

Kurtz—"Do you suppose I'd be enjoying any other kind?" G. T. E.

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Mixer—"Do you see that woman on the other side of the street?"

Denser—"Yes."

Mixer—"Well, she writes for the magazines."

Denser—"Do they come?" G. T. E.

A nervous passenger on the first day of the voyage out importuned the captain to know what would happen if the steamer should strike an iceberg while it was plunging through the fog. "The iceberg would move right along, madam," the captain replied courteously, "just as if nothing had happened." And the old lady was greatly relieved.

—Youth's Companion.

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There is no law on the statute books compelling people to move up closer on the bench of life to make room for a blind brother; but there is a divine law written on the hearts of men constraining them to make a place for him, not only because he is unfortunate, but also because it is his right as a human being to share God's greatest gift—the privilege of man to go forth unto his work.

—Helen Keller.

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The so-called "potato king" is a shrewd Negro by the name of Groves, who lives on a farm near Kansas City, Kan., and raises and sells more potatoes than any other man in the world. Besides his own production he buys and sells the potatoes of others. In Kansas City he maintains a commission office and employes some ten stenographers and bookkeepers. Realizing that such a large business needs a well-trained head, he has sent his son first to the Kansas Agricultural College for an agricultural education and then to a business college for a business education.—Chicago Chronicle.

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Mayor Tom Johnson of Cleveland has been pluckily fighting a law-infringing street railway. He tore up some of the railway's tracks, an injunction was served against him, and then he in his turn secured another injunction.

"We are like the old lady and the dog, with our injunctions and mandamuses and what not," said Mayor Johnson the other day.

"There was, you know, an old lady who rented a furnished villa for the summer, and with the villa a large dog also went.

"In the sitting room of the villa there was a very comfortable armchair. The old lady liked this chair better than any other in the house. She always made for it the first thing.

"But, alas, she nearly always found the chair occupied by the large dog.

"Being afraid of the dog, she never dared bid it harshly to get out of the chair, as she feared that it might bite her; but instead she would go to the window and call, 'Cats.'

"Then the dog would rush to the window and bark, and the old lady would slip into the vacant chair quietly.

"One day the dog entered the room and found the old lady in possession of the chair. He strolled over to the window and, looking out, appeared very much excited and set up a tremendous barking.

"The old lady rose and hastened to the window to see what was the matter and the dog quietly climbed into the chair."—Chicago Chronicle.