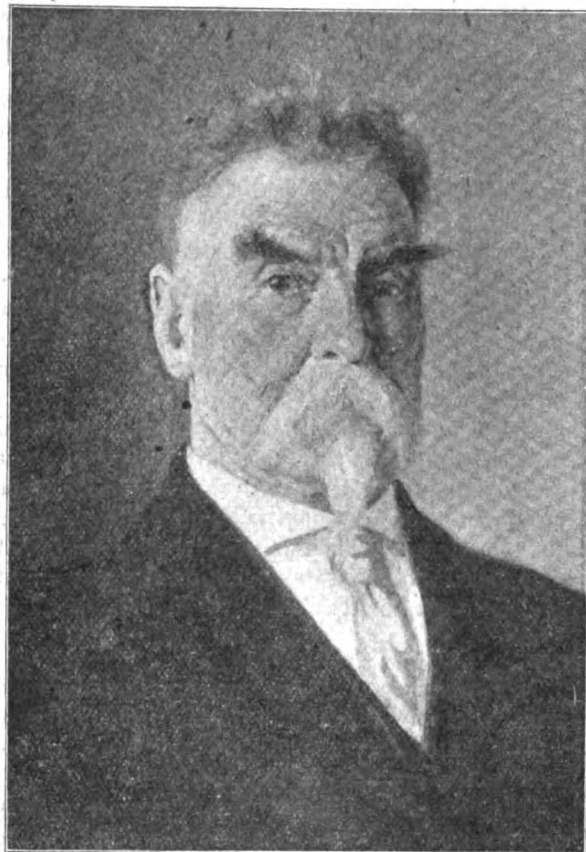


regards this loss as one of his financial contributions to the cause he believes in.



Mayor Craig is no tenderfoot in business affairs. He has been president for three years and vice-president for five of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. The portrait here given is a half-tone from an oil portrait which adorns that Chamber in honor of his presidency. Truly may he say, as he has been reported, that the experience at Piedmont has "waked up the entrenched interests to combat reform in taxation." In explanation of the defeat of the amendment for home rule in taxation in California, Mayor Craig is reported as saying: "Corporations, banks and land owners' outclassed us in cash and hired advocates. It is hard to make Selfishness realize that Honesty is the best policy."



Governor Dunne and Taxation.

Edward F. Dunne makes the welcome announcement that he will in his inaugural message as Governor of Illinois, recommend the abolition of the State Board of Equalization. Tax grafters will be against him in this policy, but he will

have the cordial support of every one else who understands the matter.



The Massachusetts Labor Trial.

Over and above its justice with reference simply to the individuals immediately concerned, the acquittal of Ettor, Giovannitti and Caruso has a double significance of great value. It goes to show on the one hand that fair dealing by courts and juries with reference to industrial classes is more than a theory, and on the other hand that violence in behalf of the labor side in industrial warfare is against the interests of that side. An unfair conviction in this case would have aroused intense bitterness—and justly. But a fair conviction would have been approved by the common sense of all classes—also justly. This Massachusetts trial is at once an example for all courts and juries, and as much a warning to labor leaders who advocate policies of violence as a vindication of the acquitted men.



International Red Tape.

Sumas City, Washington, is separated from Huntingdon, British Columbia, by the invisible international boundary line that runs in the middle of a street. One block north of the line is the Huntingdon postoffice; four blocks south of the line is the Sumas postoffice. A letter addressed to the postmaster at Huntingdon and dropped into the Sumas postoffice takes a little journey of 126 miles to Seattle, and returns over the same road to Huntingdon, to the same railway platform from which it was placed on the Seattle train the previous day. Possibly there is a better illustration of the tour around Robin Hood's barn, but where is it?



THE COST OF LIVING.

Bulletins Nos. 105 and 106 of the Bureau of Labor, issued in August, 1912, have attracted a good deal of attention.

This is not surprising as they deal with an interesting subject, The Cost of Living. The Bureau places before us in statistical form the now familiar fact that the necessities of life are fast becoming luxuries.



Taking as a basis average prices from 1890-1899, it is found that in June, 1912, the cost of food for an average workingman's family had increased from 47 per cent to 65 per cent, accord-

ing to the section of the country considered. This may be stated as a summary of the results of the investigation. The methods of calculation are explained in the bulletins.

Nearly everything has gone up.

Irish potatoes lead the list with an advance of 111 per cent, while sugar trails along in the rear with only 8½ per cent. Prices for 1912 show advances over those of 1911, ranging from 5.9 per cent in January to 14.2 per cent in May.

Dealers have been asked to comment on the situation.

As to consequences, some are explicit. Out of 26 quoted, 3 say they will go out of business; 3 more that they are making no profit; 1 that he doesn't know what is going to happen to the retail business.

As to causes, there are some specific reasons given.

Bread is going up on account of a rise in flour. Nominally there is no advance in bread. The five-cent loaf still sells for five cents and the ten-cent loaf for ten cents, only there is less bread in the loaves. The Bureau finds that "the small plant using, in the main, hand processes is being rapidly replaced by the large modern bakery using machine methods of production." And the advantage of the economy goes to—somebody.

Milk was high, according to one dealer, owing to a short supply, this being due to the high price of feed.

A New England dealer reports that the high price of meat is attributed to the high price of corn. So it is. You have heard the explanation yourself.

It costs too much to raise cattle; therefore, the supply is short. But if sirloin steak has advanced 59 per cent and rib roast 63 per cent and round steak 84 per cent, how do you account for that? Is there a greater shortage in the cattle to which we are indebted for sirloin steak than to the useful animals which supply us with round steak? Are they actually sending to market cattle unprovided with round steaks? Or what?

The usual explanation of the retailer is that he is charging more because he has to pay more. This is excellent as far as it goes but it is not entirely satisfactory.



However, there are able minds not engaged in the retail trade, struggling with this problem.

A Protectionist orator in New York the other day proved trimphantly that the tariff is not responsible for the price of eggs, but that is as far as he got.

The overproduction of gold has been offered as a reason for the present high prices; but why the accursed yellow metal should send milk up 32 per cent and pork chops up 86 per cent is not apparent on its face.

Some authorities think the extravagance of the masses is responsible for present conditions. For example, their preference for fine cuts of meat. But, as we have seen, round steak is more than holding its own with sirloin.

There are people who think the rise in prices is the result of the rise in money wages. But before accepting this theory we should have to know which rose first, and whether the rise in wages is equal to the whole, or to what part, of the rise in in prices.

If the Reverend Mr. Malthus is still interested in such things, he may be looking down at these tables and saying "What? Smoked bacon gone up 96 per cent? Evidently population is pressing on subsistence. These people need a war. If they killed off half the population the rest might be able to eat potatoes."



If we may assume for a moment that the high prices are brought about by trusts or combinations, we encounter the painful fact that some of the monopolists are in hard luck.

Why should granulated sugar have gone up only 8½ per cent and pork chops 86 per cent? Have not the trusts equal rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of the consumer's money?

It recalls that ancient story of the small boy to whom was shown the picture of Daniel in the lion's den. He was deeply moved. He was afraid that the poor little lion in the corner wouldn't get any of Daniel.

Will the consumer last long enough to go around?

WM. E. McKENNA.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

HOW THEY WON IN EVERETT.*

Everett, Wash., Nov. 27.

The Singletax ballots at the election here were marked plainly "Single Tax; For, Against." We have never tried to hide the source of our inspiration. We have always taken the ground that winning an election is of secondary importance. What we wished to do was to provoke discussion along Singletax lines, to educate public thought; to make Singletaxers, not to give our doctrine in a capsule to an unwitting public.

In order to work out this idea we distributed our

*See Public of November 15, page 1091.