

people. To keep their sovereignty complete and their freedom safe, the people must reserve to themselves a power over taxation that is direct and absolute.

When U'Ren's proposed amendment has been adopted, the defenses of the people of Oregon against unjust State and municipal taxation will be complete; and every step they take toward a juster system of taxation will put them on new vantage ground from which they can never be routed. And because political freedom and industrial freedom advance hand in hand, there is likely to be such progress and prosperity in Oregon in a few years more as will be the world's wonder. There will be more liberty there than anywhere else on earth. The whole world will learn from Oregon.

ASHER GEO. BEECHER.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

A WOMAN WHO UNDERSTOOD.

When the news arrived from Cleveland that the Schmidt proposition had been defeated on referendum [p. 776], an unassuming housekeeper was sitting mending small garments, and resting, while their small owners lay like cherubs, storing energy with which to tear more clothes on the morrow.

Now unassuming housekeepers, who are so called because they keep the house standing and useful in spite of vigorous life from one to five years old, are sometimes not much consulted or advised with over investments, or political economy and radical ideals. It is more exact to say that when they may happen to ask questions they are most often answered with brevity, and courteously referred to back numbers of *The Public*, which much mending puts largely out of reach. You see, until a housekeeper of the above type goes to heaven, and leaves the house and babies to be looked after by her bread-winning, voting lord, it is only upon occasions that he fully recognizes that she is a producer.

To such housekeepers income is a matter by no means trivial. They may not be wholly acquainted with its origin; but lord, how well they know its need and the growing uses to which it may be put!

Now the unassuming housekeeper with whom "a mile back" this story started, had once derived income from Municipal Traction shares. This stopped, which impressed her exceedingly. What with the mending and housekeeping, however, much analysis, so as to understand the situation, had not come her way. Before the referendum she had gathered certain things regarding both income and principal, should the Schmidt proposition win. These certain things suited her well. What wonder? Income is very close to much mending and house-preserving, when life from one to five is vigorous and buoyant round about.

The news was divulged to this unassuming house-

keeper, perhaps with brevity, profanity and a tendency towards cowardice.

"Well, how about income," said the unassuming housekeeper. It was then explained that income and principal were less tangible than before, owing to this defeat.

There followed an interval. The unassuming housekeeper finished a patch in a "romper," and started upon a slit in a dainty, tiny petticoat, while elsewhere in the room rage brooded over the sins of that large community in Cleveland.

Then the unassuming housekeeper looked up. "I am very sorry indeed for Mr. Tom L. Johnson. He is so sincere and energetic that this will hurt him badly. What will he do about it?"

It was then explained that Mr. Johnson had declared that he would fight to the last ditch in this street railway business. Also that not the least item of his fight to this ditch would be to obtain principal and income for the investors in Municipal Traction.

Then an interval, and, "Well, I do hope that he won't bother too much about the investors. I should hate to add to the burden of so sincere and energetic a man in so great a struggle. Why, it may kill him!"

And the unassuming housewife plainly exhibited the fact that she understood something of the fight, and what it called upon the men fighting to give to it.

Ever since the 3rd this thought has been variously expressed, or lain dormant, in the minds of many men all over the world. To "the men who work" it is not strange that the group of men called "Our Tom" should appeal, and awaken this feeling.

But to the unassuming housekeepers, "the women who weep"—well, it is not strange, but it is very beautiful.

X. X.

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WORKING FOR THE FELS FUND.

Merrivold Park, Sullivan Co., New York.

By this mail I am sending to the Fels fund a check for \$124, money made at a little fair held in our garden here and liberally patronized by the summer colony.

The idea occurred to me a few days before, that with no shops near by at which to spend our pocket money we might in this way make it doubly useful, first by spending it for our own enjoyment and then by turning it over to the Fels fund. All of us worked, and even those that cared nothing for the Fels fund gave cakes and pies and so on.

If we hadn't run out of ice cream our check to the fund would be larger.

I am reporting this little experiment in the hope that it may be taken up in other summer colonies, as a means of swelling the Fels fund. And I don't suppose it need be limited to summer colonies.

ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE.

P. S.—I am opening this letter to say that seven dollars more have come in, making the total contribution of our little fair to the Fels fund \$131. I am delighted and am planning bazaars for future years for the same purpose.