

will advise contentment with poverty; will denounce the poor for their unrest, on the one hand, and on the other will fly to the defense of the rich oppressor, while always his grovelling soul is drunk with the contemplation of the golden streets and jasper walls of the New Jerusalem! a city whose boundless wealth he dearly hopes to share; wealth that he is striving for, tooth and nail, by hook or by crook, to capture.

Justice demands that the social mechanism deliver to every one the equivalent of his contribution to the total of product. Or, to state it in another way: Justice demands that the social mechanism deliver to no one more than the equivalent of his contribution to the total of product. But the prevailing social mechanism delivers countless millions to some individuals, and leaves multitudes in abject poverty.

Some of the sheep are grazing in green pastures, beside the still waters, while many are famishing in the desert. But the shepherd dares not interfere, except to adjure the hungry bleaters to "be content with that condition in life to which," etc., ending with an infamous blasphemy!

And then he wonders why the poor don't go to church!

EDWARD HOWELL PUTNAM.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

CLEVELAND.

Cleveland, Oct. 28.—Have you ever seen a prize fight where towards the close one fighter gains the ascendancy over his wily dodging opponent, and sends him to the ropes? Well, I witnessed such a contest last evening between the two candidates for the mayoralty, Tom L. Johnson and his opponent, W. H. Boyd. Boyd is an intellectual contortionist, who can duck and dodge, who can twist himself up into all kinds of knots, and while unraveling himself spit all kinds of intellectual fire, which would be more or less edifying did the crowd come simply to be entertained in a frivolous way. But when an audience assembles on serious business such antics are as painful as a joke at a funeral.

Boyd is a criminal lawyer, earning his bread and butter as a jawsmith before jurors, trying, as Johnson said, "to make them believe that his client is an angel, when as a matter of fact he ought to be in the penitentiary wearing stripes." This blandishment,

acquired by force of habit, sticks to him through this campaign. Criminal lawyers, when handling a bad case, kick up a lot of dust, make heaps of noise, and paint linguistic colors, in the hope that the jurors' minds may be diverted from the cold facts they are called upon to consider and weigh.

Such was Boyd last evening compared with the staid and ponderous personality of Tom L. Johnson. It was an exhibition of a rapid-firing machine gun going up against a 13-inch gun. Johnson, composed, fearless, without artifice, went direct to the meat of things, and with resistless force repelled the wholesale charges that his administration was one of graft. Had Boyd left out of his campaign these charges of graft he would have stood a better show; but this community will never elect a man who has such a cheap estimate of its citizens as to try to make them believe what he does not believe himself—namely, that Tom L. Johnson is a sordid grafter.

There is something truly great about the personality of Tom Johnson. Shining through his broad face there are lines indicating that he is as gentle as a child, yet interblended with these are other lines showing that he has all the fearless courage of the lion. To be gentle, to be good, to desire the right, and to have the courage of a hero to do battle for one's ideals, is the greatest gift from God to man. Such is Tom Johnson. And as the years come and go, may both his love and his strength filter through the souls of men, and become incarnate in the life of our nation.

GEORGE A. SCHILLING.

AUSTRALIA.

Corowa, N. S. W., Sept. 30.—Several bills have been introduced in the Federal parliament (p. 307), some of which are very objectionable as tending to restrict personal freedom. Among them is one for the protection of trademarks, which includes a clause providing for the union label, and is arousing most discussion and opposition.

The most important bills before the State parliament of New South Wales relate to local government.

In this respect New South Wales is more backward than Victoria. The whole of Victoria is under local government, the towns being called "boroughs," "towns" or "cities," according to size, and the country districts "shires."

But in New South Wales, while most towns of 500 inhabitants and upwards are incorporated as municipalities, there is nothing corresponding to shires. Outside of the municipalities there is no local government, the roads and bridges being made and maintained by the State government and

paid for out of the general State revenue. Consequently one of the principal duties of members of parliament for country districts is to get as much money as possible expended in their electorates.

This is, of course, demoralizing both to members and constituents. Every ministry in New South Wales for the last 20 years has promised to bring in full local government, and a number of bills have been introduced, but none passed. The present ministry has introduced bills to amend the present local government act, and to bring the whole State (except the western division, where there is very little population) under municipal government.

Under the present law, local taxes (called rates) are levied on land and improvements (not on property generally). The occupier of the property, whether owner or tenant, is the person taxed. Only tax payers are allowed to vote at municipal elections, the number of votes varying from one to four, according to the value of the property taxed. Municipal elections are not influenced in any way by State or Federal politics. The mayor is elected by the council, and has no special powers, being merely the chairman. The council appoints all officials except auditors, who are elected by the tax payers. Judges, magistrates, police and public school teachers are all appointed and controlled by the State government, and the buildings and land used by them are owned by the State, so the municipal government has nothing to do with them whatever. In these respects the local government system of Victoria is very similar.

The most important alteration proposed by the New South Wales ministry is that, both in the present municipalities, and in the new shires proposed to be formed, the local taxes are to be levied on land values only, exempting improvements.

The maximum tax which a council will be allowed to levy is twopence-half penny in the pound. In any municipality or shire where the local tax is one penny or upwards, the present State tax of one penny in the pound will cease to be collected.

By the present State tax, land values to the amount of £240 are exempt, and there is also an exemption in the case of mortgaged land; an attempt, often successful, being made to tax the mortgagee by means of the income tax.

The local government bills are now being discussed by the State parliament, and may be altered, but the ministry seems to be determined to try to pass them.

A woman's franchise bill was passed by the lower house of Victoria in July, but rejected by the upper house. Victoria is the only State which does