

of Colored People has been permanently organized, with Moorfield Storey as president, Wm. English Walling as chairman of the executive committee, John E. Mulholland as treasurer, Oswald Garrison Villard as disbursing treasurer, a general committee of 100 members of both races, and executive offices at 20 Vesey street, New York. Its program, already carried out as far as funds permit, is to educate "public opinion in healthy ideals of inter-racial relations under a democracy, principally through publication of facts and a central bureau of information and correspondence. The terms of membership range from \$1 a year to \$500 in one payment.

PRESS OPINIONS

A Financial View of President Taft.

Moody's Magazine (financial), June.—People are trying to figure out how it happens to be that the Administration at Washington has so completely changed front on the railroad question. Wall Street had begun to feel in recent months that Mr. Taft was really more friendly to the corporation interests of the country than most people had supposed. . . . The real explanation of the changed attitude of the President is doubtless based on the political situation. Mr. Taft has begun finally to realize that his administration up to date has been very unpopular, even with his own party. He is finding that the temper of the people, particularly in the Central and Western States, is extremely bitter toward the policies which he had adopted.

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A Practical Application of the "Golden Rule."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (ind.), June 25.—Chief Kohler's address to his men, following his reinstatement, shows him to be a bigger man than even his friends had estimated him. The chief plainly stated that no animosity would be shown against those members of the police department who had testified against him, worked against him, sought evidence against him and done everything in their power to blacken his reputation. From the moment of his reinstatement Kohler has declared a "new deal." All that happened prior to that time has been wiped off the slate. Merit and efficiency alone will count for favor or promotion. In view of the finding of the civil service commission there is no doubt that the testimony of some of the members of the police department against Kohler was not only malicious but also false. It would have been but human for the chief to single out some of the worst offenders for at least a reprimand. He would not have been severely criticised had he pursued such a course, but there is no doubt that he has chosen the wiser policy. With the fine vindication that has been given him, with the strong manifestation of popular sympathy and approval that has marked the progress and culmination of the trial before the civil service commission, the chief can well be content. The policemen whose testimony was discredited have been sufficiently punished without any show of vindictiveness on the part of the man they sought to injure. It is at least possible that some of them

will see that it is now not only their duty but also their personal advantage to turn in and prove efficient subordinates of the chief who has made the Cleveland police force a model.

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Platitudes.

The (Chicago) Tribune (Rep.), June 6.—There are times when platitudes under pressure of momentous issues give forth the latent heat they keep within their smooth worn surfaces. Then they are likely to burn the fingers of those who have carried them about for many years as pocket pieces to ward off the pangs of spiritual rheumatism, or have worn them, expensively mounted, as watch charms to mark one's moral wealth and to set one apart in the eyes of one's admiring neighbors as one who can afford such luxuries. It would seem that the present is a time when this is happening. Certain platitudes, moral, and social, and political platitudes, which during many peaceful years have enjoyed the favor of our best citizens, have grown incandescent, uncomfortable, and undesirable. They are coming to be suspected of being not respectable. To handle them openly in public is already bad form in some circles, and they will presently be nothing better than a badge of the crank, the agitator, and the visionary. . . . But incandescent platitudes are difficult to put away. They shine in spite of us. They burn in spite of us. They develop a life of their own and dance before us in spite of our shocked protest. Yet as they become worse than valueless to some, they take on a new and unexpected value to many.

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The Strangling of Finnish Liberties.

The (London) Nation (Lib.), June 11.—The Russian Douma, as it exists in its third incarnation, with a jerrymandered electorate and a Siberian purge behind it, has done little as yet to distinguish itself among the world's Parliaments. But by the levity with which it is voting away the liberties of Finland, it has at last succeeded in establishing a record. For anything resembling the frivolity of its proceedings one would have to search the records of those sessions of our own House of Commons which dealt in an equally summary way with a conquered and unrepresented Ireland under the last of the Stuarts. To the accompaniment of the guillotine, under a reign of mitrailleuse speeches, each limited to a few minutes, the history of a century was blotted out, the promises of dead Tsars obliterated, and a developed Western civilization subjected to a semi-Asiatic despotism. . . . The Extreme Left, it seems to us, took the more self-respecting course when it left the House in protest after the first fatal decision. The Liberals under M. Millukoff made a good and resolute fight, but against an overwhelming majority under summary rules of procedure their efforts were foredoomed to failure. . . . The sequel one may anticipate with a certain gloomy assurance. The Finns are not of the stuff that bends before a threat. Everything which they valued, from the form of their cherished Constitution to the more intimate liberties of their daily life, is now in danger of overthrow. . . . But Russia, if she triumphs,

will do so only by losing the culture, the prosperity, and the contentment of the one corner of her dominions which reaches in these respects a European standard. It remains for the democracies of the West to see to it that she shall lose much more than this. It happens that we have no legal ground for protest, as we had in the much less gross case of Bosnia. But treaty rights have none the less been violated, solemn oaths forgotten, and the public law of Europe flouted. The Government which has done these things has proclaimed itself a Government which does not keep faith. Prudence itself counsels us that the ally who attempts to transact with it risks behavior equally faithless. There were reasons enough before in the internal misgovernment of Russia why we should refrain from any entente cordiale. Those reasons are multiplied tenfold today. In all our dealings, diplomatic, social and financial, with the official classes of Russia, there is now a plain duty to remember, first of all, that on them falls the guilt of libicide in Finland. If there is talk again of an exchange of courtesies with the Douma which has done this thing, or with the Court which prompted it, the politicians or the party which on our side make or welcome the advance will stand branded before public opinion for condoning the grossest wrong in modern history.

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Human Derelicts.

Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat (dem. Dem.), May 14.—Undoubtedly there is a persistent competition for the services of the exceptional man. The world is not worrying over the man who has unusual gifts and capacities. It is the average man of whom we are called upon to think. If the men out of work are the victims of their own incapacity they are really not to be blamed. We do not blame the child because he cannot lift as much as a man or run as fast or do things as well. The great average of mankind is ungifted. It possesses no peculiar talent. It has had no particular advantage or opportunity. But God has created few in his image without the capacity to provide for their reasonable wants under natural conditions. Even the lowest types of the human race are able to produce food and to provide shelter. It is only in our boasted civilization that vast hordes of strong men and women are condemned to hopeless poverty and to a benumbing dependence on others for mere leave to toil. If the census enumerators find 292 people crowded into one house and 350 into another under conditions to which we would not subject a dog it is not because these herded creatures prefer so to live. It is because economic conditions force them to it; it is because poverty grips them so hard that they cannot escape its palsy effects; it is because they are shut out from God's great and generous storehouse and so are denied the chance to supply their wants and to live lives of decency and hope.

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Vision and sight
Are not the same, quite.
You may call her a vision,
Don't call her a sight.

—Kansas City Times.

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

SONG.

For The Public.

O keep you safely all the night and bravely thro'
the day
The charm that lights your gentle eyes as charms
none other may.
My thoughts about you build of joy protection naught
shall mar,
And ever hides my song to you the near fear and
the far.

O hold you sweetly in the dusk and gladly in the
dawn
The heart that in your service dear thro' every fear
has gone.
My life were little to account if value less you gave
To courage that for you I claim and songs for you
I save.

GEORGE E. BOWEN.

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POPULAR VERSUS DELEGATED GOVERNMENT.

Portions of a Speech Made by Jonathan Bourne, Jr.,
of Oregon, in the United States Senate on
May 5, 1910.*

Successful and permanent government must rest primarily on recognition of the rights of men and the absolute sovereignty of the people. Upon these principles is built the superstructure of our Republic. Their maintenance and perpetuation measure the life of the Republic. . . .

Much has been said in favor of representative government. I believe in a truly representative government, but where the selection of public servants is left to a political machine or boss, as is frequently the case under our convention system, the tendency is toward misrepresentative, and not a truly representative, form of government, notwithstanding the election is supposedly by the people.

There are doubtless some people who honestly believe that the people as a whole have not reached the stage of development qualifying them individually to participate in government. Others whom I credit with the intelligence which I have seen manifested by them in other directions assert the inability of the people to govern themselves as an excuse rather than a conviction; but from thirty years' experience in practical politics, I am absolutely convinced not only that the people are fully

*See Public of May 20, page 458. See also volume xl, pp. 278, 320, 388.