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**NEWS NOTES**


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—The Supreme Court of Illinois, on the 18th, invalidated the Torrens mandatory land title act enacted in 1903 (vol. vi, p. 60).

—An immense cave has been discovered beneath the site of Charlestown, W. Va., the roof of which is near enough to the surface of the earth to cause alarm.

—A play by Ruth Bryan Leavitt, daughter of William J. Bryan, was given an initial production at Salt Lake on the 16th. Its title is "Mrs. S. Holmes, Detective."

—Cipriano Castro, President of Venezuela (vol. viii, pp. 152, 353), has retired temporarily from the presidency. He is succeeded by the First Vice President, Juan Vicente Gomez.

—Solomon H. Spencer, who died at his home in Yonkers on the 25th, was the editor of *New Christianity*, a religious publication with an economic point of view. He was for many years a disciple in economics of Henry George.

—The pastor of the Fourth Unitarian Church of Brooklyn, N. Y., the Rev. John M. Davidson, has announced a series of Sunday evening lectures, among which are "The Justice of the Single Tax," April 29th, and "The Weakness and the Strength of Democracy in America," May 6.

—William Randolph Hearst, as candidate for mayor of New York (p. 11), has made application to the Attorney General of New York for the institution of quo warranto proceedings in the name of the people of the State of New York against George B. McClellan to test the title of Mr. McClellan to the office of mayor of New York City.

—Rev. Algernon S. Crapey, the rector of a Protestant Episcopal Church at Rochester, New York, is on trial at Batavia for heresy before an ecclesiastical court. The charges are that in his book, "Religion and Politics," he intentionally expressed disbelief in the divinity of Christ, the conception of the Holy Ghost, the virgin birth, the bodily resurrection, and the Trinity.

—At Cincinnati on the 17th the Court of Common Pleas decided that the Senate Investigating Committee, mentioned in editorial correspondence in another column, is without legal authority. The decision was made in favor of the cashier of the First National Bank of Cincinnati who had refused to testify before the committee relative to corrupt financial transactions of certain politicians.

—At a farewell banquet given at the Auditorium, Chicago, on the 17th, to Mr. and Mrs. Trumbull White upon the withdrawal of Mr. White from the editorship of the *Red Book* at Chicago to become editor of *Appleton's Magazine* at New York, friendly speeches were made by Karl Edwin Harriman (Mr. White's successor on the *Red Book*), Hobart C. Chatfield-Taylor, Homer J. Carr, Henry Barrett Chamberlain and Richard Henry Little. S. E. Kiser read some original verses, John T. McCutcheon made some original cartoons, Rex E. Beach was toastmaster and Emerson Hough acted as chairman.

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**PRESS OPINIONS**


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**PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND THE BIG GRAFTERS.**

Cleveland Press (ind.), April 17.—It is a peculiarly unfortunate time to condemn the factors which have so recently caused the most notable series of triumphs for reform ever known in the country's history.

The (Omaha) Investigator (ind.), April 12.—After a few months it is probable that we shall see no more articles in the magazines assaulting the trusts, denouncing graft, telling of the treason of the Senate, bringing multi-millionaires into disrepute, discredit upon the political boss, endangering the perpetuity of city franchises or anything of that sort. At first the plutocrats thought they were so secure that they need pay no attention to these articles, but they have come to the conclusion that they must be suppressed, and suppressed they will be. The agent they have chosen to do the work is President Roosevelt.

Auburn (N. Y.) Citizen (ind. Dem.), April 16.—As the crowd broke up and moved away, it was not muck-raking but the President's new declaration that was warmly discussed by Senators, Representatives and the entire legislative circle, and the opinion was generally expressed that the President had sounded his keynote for the Presidential campaign of 1908. . . . The President took advantage of what was expected to be a scolding speech to acquaint the country in moderate temper with a design of his that, for the present at least, will take much attention from the subjects that have been engrossing the public mind. The new topic is likely to cut an important figure in the next Presidential campaign—so much in fact as might call for a new alignment in the great political parties.

Milwaukee Daily News (Dem.), April 16.—Though President Roosevelt's loudly-heralded "muck rake" speech proved to be a very tame deliverance, suggestive of the labors of the mountain that brought forth a mouse, manifestly it was designed to bring comfort to the men in the muck. Yet he lacked the courage to come out in the open and defend the men that covertly he sought to render assistance. Covertly he has given aid to the plunderers of life insurance funds, the bribers of legislatures, the debauchers of Congress. He has done it while protesting that he has no sympathy with them. . . . The good needs no extenuation. It needs no sympathy. It needs no apology. The evil when beset calls for aid and needs defense. Mr. Roosevelt has come to the defense of good found in the company of evil. The good does not need it. The evil has grasped it to its very soul.

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**GEORGE'S "THE MENACE OF PRIVILEGE."**

The Outlook (rel.), Mar. 31.—What is the cause of the grave changes that are coming over the American Republic?—the extraordinary inequality in wealth distribution, class feeling, the aristocratic idea, lowered morals among the rich, moral deterioration among the working masses, militant trade unionism, perversion of courts, illegitimate use of militia, corruption of politics, limitation of freedom of press, university, and pulpit, centralization of government, foreign aggression. The answer is, the appearance of Privilege. This volume strives to show how special privilege underlies these ominous appearances. The remedies proposed are, "Tax land monopoly to death" and "Take all public highway functions into public hands." The foregoing paragraph condensed from the preface must here suffice to indicate the nature of this book. The style is excellent, the spirit earnest, the vision clear though not unprejudiced. The son is more than the pupil of his father, he is his father's heir. In clearness and cogency of presentation this volume is scarcely inferior to "Progress and Poverty." . . . As to remedies, we agree with Mr. George's first and we disagree with his second. Natural land values belong to the people, and they can and ought to be secured, at least measurably, to the people, by the simple method of what Mr. Shearman has well called "Natural Taxation." As to public highways, we would make the attempt to resume the value of the franchises so recklessly given away, by putting a legitimate taxation upon the possessors and operators of the railroads, and to

secure the public administration for the public benefit by governmental regulation enforced by public opinion. If this should fail, it will then be time enough to consider the experiment of government ownership and administration.

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#### THE CHICAGO TRACTION QUESTION.

Chicago Record-Herald (Ind. Rep.), April 13.—It is most fortunate that Mayor Dunne fully recognizes the imperative necessity of immediate better service and has, as outlined in his ante-election interview in The Record-Herald, evidenced his wish to reach an agreement with the present companies if possible by which a modernized, unified service could be secured under an indeterminate license system, the companies to continue to operate under agreed terms until they are paid for their existing property and rights and also reimbursed for any betterments required. This seems an entirely sensible proposition and one on which an agreement should easily be reached with the existing companies. The crucial question will be as to the attitude of the members of the Council who have opposed Mayor Dunne's former plans and who may be tempted to assume an obstructive position that will encourage the traction companies to a further recalcitrancy. For ourselves, we wish to say definitely that we have no apprehension that the honest anti-municipal ownership aldermen will by any possibility be such fool politicians and bad citizens as to play peanut politics at this time, but we confidently look to them to join with the honest municipal ownership aldermen to bring order out of the present intolerable chaos, leaving the gray wolf grafters to do as they please.

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#### MAYOR DUNNE'S TRACTION COUNSEL.

Chicago Tribune (Rep.), April 13.—The Mayor . . . should refrain from saying of any scheme he may present that it is the handiwork of, or is approved by, his new special traction counsel. The aldermen have no love for Mr. Walter L. Fisher or his works. He has laid the rod on the backs of many of them. If the Mayor were to submit a Fisher project to the Council the effect would be that produced by shaking a red rag before a herd of bulls.

Chicago-Record Herald (Ind. Rep.), April 17.—That several of the reputable newspapers of the city, actuated by petty jealousy, undue friendliness to the traction interests, or animosity to Mayor Dunne, should be so heedless of elemental decency and truth as they have shown themselves to be in their assaults on Mr. Fisher is abhorrently unfair. To read these diatribes against the "uplift" one might well infer that in Chicago some odium properly attached itself to Mr. Fisher or anyone else who had been prominent in the work of driving thieves out of the Council or in keeping them out. Very happily this is in no wise true, and every loyal Chicagoan will hope that Mr. Fisher's traction work may be as successful as that other which has earned him the thanks and praise of the large-minded people of the city.

Chicago Daily News (Ind.), April 18.—Chicagoans love fair play. The attacks on Mr. Fisher, who in particular is pelted with that terrible word, "reformer"—in quotation marks—seem to be based exclusively on the unquestionable fact that he has placed the public under deep obligations to him by his unselfish and unremitting work, in connection with the Municipal Voters' League, for honest and efficient aldermen. What he has accomplished in the past for Chicago's good is a matter of common fame. This city is most fortunate in having obtained the services of this able lawyer and sterling citizen at the present critical time in traction matters. If he fails in his efforts to bring about good results perhaps he will be open to reproach. But now that he is endeavoring to help the city in a notable manner he should be supported by public sympathy, not sneered at and misrepresented.

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"You never argue on the tariff."

"No," answered the unenthusiastic citizen; "I have observed that a man's opinions on the tariff depend almost entirely on what business he happens to be in. And I shouldn't think of asking a man to change his business out of deference to my personal theories."—Washington Star.

## RELATED THINGS

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

#### GLORY.

Dedicated to the President and Congress of the United States, and to Gen. Leonard A. Wood, by Charles Erskine Scott Wood.

#### For The Public.

Six hundred Moros have been slain—all—all—all—  
Fathers and mothers and boys and girls and black-eyed babes.

It is a glorious victory.

I weep for the little children who shall never play again;  
The little children of the slim soft limbs, so full of grace.  
I have seen these naked little children lying about like broken toys,

Their fat little arms and legs tossed about as if they were asleep. Dead!

Their chubby bodies naked and glistening;  
Their laughter forever hushed. Ended their childish joy of living,

Ended by a blue hole in the forehead—by a black spot on the breast—by a bullet in the smooth, soft belly.

I have seen them lie under the sun, wounded, wailing for water—dying.

I have seen them with eyes staring and patient, not understanding; I have seen their eyes clouded in the hideous suffering, waiting for death.

I have seen the mangled abdomens and shattered limbs and the dumb, frightened look of their eyes, saying, "Why must we die? Why must we be killed? Why should our childish lives be ended?"

Why! In the name of Christ, the compassionate, the all merciful—Why?

I have heard the sharp shriek of childish agony as the bullet struck its soft mark.

I have heard the childish moans as little boys lay dying—killed by brave soldiers.

I have seen the yellow mother stoop over her slender boy and fall upon him, dead,—

She, too, crushed by a bullet,—  
Mingling their blood together in death as when she gave him life.

Or did God give it?

I have seen all fathers, all mothers, all brave young boys with full round chests and flashing black eyes, all the young maids,

All the long haired little boys and the prattling little girls,

All—all—lying at last quiet in death,—not one left alive;  
The slim young boys lying on their backs, their full rounded chests torn with bullets,

Their eyes staring into the sky,  
Their smooth young arms listless by their sides.

I have smelled the smell of blood and the stench of carrion has come upon me,

So that I waked from sleep;  
And I looked into the silent eternity of the stars and trembled,

For the carrion was the smooth soft bodies of mothers and of children who have ceased from their playing.

And I said to myself, to comfort myself, "There is no God!

Behold the hyena! It spares not, and sups upon carrion.  
And the jackal and the raven. Behold, the lion slays what it will."

Then I arose and crept to the Dreadful Place;  
And I looked in over the edge of the crater,

And the bodies of fathers, mothers and children glistened under the white moon,—nursed on the soil which had borne them.

And all about, on the rocks, perched the vultures,  
Heavy with full feeding. They had torn out the eyes of the little children,

And the jackals tore the hearts of the little maids, and the soft breasts of the mothers,

And I snuffed up the scent of the carrion,  
And I said, exultingly, to exalt my country,

"There is no God."