

The Public

A National Journal of Fundamental Democracy &
A Weekly Narrative of History in the Making

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EDITORIAL

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Municipal Annexations Extraordinary.

Municipal annexation laws in Indiana are peculiar. One day we hear that East Chicago (Indiana) has annexed Hammond, without Hammond's knowing anything about it until it was over. Before this sensation subsided, East Chicago had reached out for Whiting and annexed that unsuspecting neighbor. And now Gary surreptitiously swallows all three at one gulp. This sounds like a joke, but is it?

♦ ♦

Financial Ethics.

Mr. Carnegie's plan for puncturing bloated wealth is simplicity itself. "Let men make all the money they can in their life time," he says, "but when they die, let the state take half of it." Why let the state take any of it if the men *make* it? The state isn't a pirate. At any rate it ought not to be. And if the men don't make it but only *take* it, why should the state let them keep it until they die? The state doesn't protect men in piracy. At any rate it oughtn't to.

♦ ♦

Judicial Speakerships.

The Cannon fight gives hopeful promise of resulting incidentally in the substitution of a judicial presiding officer for a partisan. This would be a good thing. A body like Congress needs a presiding officer to declare and interpret rules of order, and not to boss the body. He ought to

have no powers of appointment, no powers of dictation, no facilities for intrigue, and no interest in anything Congressional except the purely judicial interest of ruling on points of order as an expert in parliamentary law. Neither should he be a member of the body, nor should his own party affiliations be regarded as important either way. So long as he was truly judicial, such a Speaker would command the respect of the body over which he presided, unless the body was unworthy of his respect. If either lost the respect of the other it would be better for all concerned if their official relations were severed.

+ +

Undemocratic Democrats.

The wisdom of our remarks of last week about the dangers to democracy of a Democratic victory next fall (p. 268) is verified by the action of the Democratic caucus of the lower House of the Maryland legislature in deciding to put through a law depriving Negro voters of the right to register for State and municipal elections. This is indicative of the reactionary tom foolery that may be expected of the Democratic party if it captures Congress next fall in a "get together" campaign. Unless democratic Democrats were in the majority, the bourbons would soon make it seem as clear as day to the American people that the Democratic party is the same political refuge for nigger-hating oligarchs that it used to be.

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The Fight in Tawney's District.

When Mr. Taft gave the spotted Tawney a Presidential whitewash (vol xii, pp. 920, 938) he unintentionally invited a political catastrophe for Tawney, and now the struggle has begun. It is one to be observed with interest from far and near. Happily the Democrats have found in Judge H. L. Buick of Winona a candidate worth trusting and fighting for. A democratic Democrat, he is a man whom democratic Republicans can vote for without recoiling. If the Democratic party could take possession of the next Congress with such members as Judge Buick we should not look with alarm upon the prospects of a Democratic victory.

+ +

Confession of a Meat Trust Manager.

An innocent confession, that of one of the British managers of the American meat trust, who, when interviewed about the high prices of meat in the United States, said:

It is true that American meats are sold cheaper

in England than in the United States, and why? Because here in England we are in competition with the meat supply from the four quarters of the globe.

Turn that confession around verbally and it becomes highly enlightening to American meat eaters. Let it read this way: "It is true that American meats are sold for higher prices in the United States than in England, and why? Because there in the United States we are not in competition with the meat supply from the four quarters of the globe." Observe, O carnivorous consumer, that we have not altered the sense of that meat trust manager's words; we have only reversed the verbal form so as to shift the emphasis. Let us add what the meat trust manager implies, and any one may understand why the meat trust is, in England but not in the United States, in competition with the meat supply from the four quarters of the globe. It is because England does not, but the United States does, lay a protective tariff on meat. The tariff is the mother of the meat trust and the grandmother of high prices for meat.

+ +

Land Value Taxation in the British Parliament.

Four members of the British House of Commons—E. G. Hemmerde, C. E. Price, Albert Spicer and Josiah C. Wedgwood—issued a call last month inviting all Liberal and Labor members of Parliament favoring the taxation of land values to join in forming a "Parliamentary Land Values Group." Translated into Americanese, this means a caucus, and caucuses are not yet quite naturalized in British politics. But within three days after the call went out, 75 favorable replies had been received, and 20 other members had written, objecting to "groups" but pledging themselves to the promotion of land value taxation.

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Our Old Friend "Per Capita."

That grand old ally of crooked and deceptive statistics, "Per Capita," has been visiting Australia, and we learn from a newspaper that Australia's government savings banks have \$204,871,324 on deposit, "equal to \$49.55 per capita of the total population of the Commonwealth." That is so interesting, because it gives one no idea whether there are 1,000, 10,000 or 100,000 depositors in the government's savings banks. It opens a wide field for speculation—sometimes called "guessing." The information is useful, too; quite as useful as the information conveyed by the statement that on a certain large stock ranch there are 103,429 animals, biped and quadruped, having a per capita of

3¼ legs. Our old friend "Per Capita" should compile his information once a year and publish an almanac. We should like to know, for example, how many per capita units of heat go up editorial chimneys every year with the smoke of "trust the President" and "party harmony."

* *

A Deserved Judicial Rebuke.

The supersensitive snob who asked to be excused from sitting on a jury in New York because the foreman was a Negro, was treated as he deserved by Judge Ford, who said: "You are excused not only from this case but for the rest of the term. You are unfit for jury service, either in this case or in this court."

* *

Menace of the Saloon in Chicago.

Anti-saloon leaders in Chicago are to be congratulated upon the rejection of their petition for a referendum at the election next week. An adverse result at the polls was almost a foregone conclusion, so poorly had the agitation been conducted on their part, and so effectively on the part of the distilling and brewing ring. This ring had appealed plausibly to "tax payers", and your ordinary real estate tax payer, in Chicago as elsewhere, will tolerate almost any public immorality, not even excluding houses of prostitution, if it is so located as not to depreciate *his* property and so licensed as to lessen *his* taxes. Yet the liquor ring dared not risk the test. They know that there are many voters in Chicago who, while averse to sumptuary legislation, would nevertheless vote against the saloon combine as being a menace to political freedom. Even now this characteristic is in one particular brazenly displayed. The names of signers of the referendum petition are posted by the liquor ring, with the avowed purpose of injuring them. Of course it cannot injure a man socially to be posted as opposed to saloons; but it may injure him in business or in politics, for it advertises him as hostile to the powerful liquor ring, and the tentacles of this civic devil fish reach out into every political precinct and suck sustenance from every business neighborhood. The posting of those names is in line with the policy of coercion and intimidation which the liquor ring pursues toward public officials. It is now extending the policy to the voter, a person hardly worth coercing when referendums are not afoot, but the only person who is worth coercing when they are afoot. But on the whole it is a good thing that the election board have complacently obeyed the liquor ring with reference to the referendum

petition of this year. It gives to those opposed to the political nuisance and menace which the saloon has come to be, an opportunity to make a better fight next fall or next spring. Meanwhile it exposes the menacing character of the liquor ring more plainly and indicates its power over officialdom more definitely.

* *

"Mugging" Unconvicted Prisoners.

Mayor Gaynor has forbidden the "mugging" of prisoners by the New York police—of all prisoners except such as are actually convicted of a felony. "Mugging" means the taking of photographs and identification measurements of persons under arrest; or, in more common phrase, the putting of the prisoner into the "rogues' gallery." How this un-American police custom—un-American because under our laws prisoners are presumed to be innocent of crime until convicted—came into vogue, and why the American sense of fair play has allowed it to continue, is quite immaterial except as a subject for indignant surprise; but that it should be stopped is an imperative duty. Along with the police "sweat box," it is a disgrace to the community that tolerates it. Mayor Gaynor having stopped one, may be trusted to put an end to the other. New York is to be congratulated upon its new tendency toward government by law.

* *

Official Lawlessness in Spokane.

Our suspicions regarding an autocratic attempt in Spokane to deny freedom of speech and of the press to socialists of the organization known as Industrial Workers of the World (vol. xii, p. 1226), prove to have been well founded. That the city authorities had grossly violated the lawful rights of these people is an inference from the terms of a settlement made about a month ago. Under that settlement landlords are no longer to be intimidated into refusing to rent halls for I. W. W. meetings. Inference: Until the settlement, they had been so intimidated. Under that settlement, the right thereafter to sell the Industrial Worker, the organ of the I. W. W., upon the streets of Spokane, just as other newspapers are sold, was conceded. Inference: Until the settlement this right had been denied. Under the settlement, I. W. W. prisoners were to be released. Inference: They had been unlawfully arrested. Also under the settlement, the use of the streets for public speaking was to be allowed to speakers for the I. W. W., precisely as to religious organization speakers. Inference: This right had

theretofore been denied. But these conclusions are not inferences merely. The plain fact appears to be that the organ of the I. W. W. was suppressed contrary to law and without legal warrant; that street speaking was denied to the I. W. W., although allowed to others; that the owners of halls were intimidated by the authorities into breaking contracts of hire with the I. W. W.; that I. W. W. speakers were arrested for attempting to speak on the streets, and were crowded, men and women, in great numbers into small and filthy places; that they were subjected, in addition, to the tortures of the police "sweat box"; and that when convicted of "disorderly conduct" for simply asserting their right to speak, they were sentenced like felons. The authorities of Spokane were doubtless wise in agreeing to end this controversy, lest it develop into a national scandal with themselves as culprits. They would have been wiser never to have begun it.

* *

Raiding Anti-Vaccinationists.

What has happened up to date to the Anti-Vaccination Society of Atlanta, Georgia, we are not advised; but through the Atlanta Constitution of February 26th we learn that its organization meeting was lawlessly invaded by the police, led on by a health officer, and the rights of those present were treated as fanatics are always disposed to treat whoever rejects the particular form of fanaticism to which they are devoted. Without warrants the police entered the private room where the meeting was in session, interrupted its proceedings, demanded the names of those present, and commanded them to submit to vaccination. If the meeting had been one of Negroes, the conduct of the Atlanta police would be accounted for. But it was a white folks' meeting.

* *

Theatrical Behavior.

Bernard Shaw, who writes many good things, never wrote to better purpose than when, in explaining why he refuses curtain calls as a dramatic author, he implied that actors ought to take a lesson from his example. The illusion of a play fades when actors—representing the dead, the dying, the hero, the villain, the victim and all—come trooping out in costume with bows and smiles, to be applauded for their acting. The applause is a proper tribute, if it does not bring the actors out nor interrupt the scene in its progress. But as Mr. Shaw says, "actors do not need the encouragement of applause," if they really are actors; for then "they are serious artists doing seri-

ous service to the community and practicing a high profession." Actors should realize that they spoil their art by answering curtain calls, and audiences should learn that it is as ill-bred to interrupt a good play well played as it would be, to quote Mr. Shaw again, "to interrupt a symphony or a church service."

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PARTY GOVERNMENT VS. PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT.

President Taft is quoted as saying at Rochester, "We will never get ahead without parties."

How far have we got ahead with parties?

Powers have been built up which defy governmental authority. Industrial power exists which may be used tyrannically or beneficently as the group known as the Morgan-Rockefeller interests decide. There is *no* guaranty that this group will not bring on a panic whenever it deems advisable to sell stocks, put the money in vaults and buy the stocks back at panic prices,

Trusts divide up the territory of our country, make collusive prices, and the power of the government under the party system does nothing to offset the consequent high cost of living.

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But, "How are you going to give expression to the varying views of ninety millions of people?" asks President Taft.

This way. New York is the most populous State. It takes votes of the people very successfully. This if done in the most populous State can be done in any State. It can be done in all States. It can be done on the same day. It can be done on the day that Presidential electors are chosen. It can be done on any question of national policy.

For example: The tariff question is not yet settled under many decades of partisan government. President Taft does not seem to know whether the people want the tariff raised or lowered. Suppose at the next Presidential election the question, "Shall the tariff rates fixed under the Taft Administration be reduced?" were submitted to the electors. Would this not give to the millions of voters of the United States the means of expression on this definite question?

And if this can be done on one question of national policy, why cannot it be done on other questions and on varying questions?

+

"How are you going to put the views of ninety millions into the form of legislation?" asks the

President. If the legislators cannot put the views of the people conclusively expressed on a definite question into the form of legislation they are not very expert. It may be that they have not been trained in the school of partisan politics to carry out the will of the people. If so, a new school can be formed to train them to really represent the sovereign people whom they now deride as "the peepul," "the masses," "the mob" or "the rabble."

But will such legislation "be agreed upon by a majority of your Representatives or Senators unless you organize parties?" asks President Taft.

What have parties or party organizations to do with such a matter, settled by the people in their sovereign capacity?

If the Representatives or Senators do not agree, on a question upon which the people have agreed, it must be because the party system makes for inefficiency and not for efficiency in representation.

✦

Organization is a good thing. Therefore why should the people of the United States, voting by States, not do a little organizing to obtain the means of expression in their sovereign capacity?

Details can be left to representatives to put in the form of statutes.

But to arrive anywhere—"to get ahead"—the people of this country must get direct legislation as the means of expression, and the recall as the means of making representatives represent, and upon this solid ground they can reorganize their political institutions on American principles.

LEWIS STOCKTON.

✦ ✦ ✦

HIGH PRICES AND HIGH RENTS.

We have often had occasion to explain away the thoughtless notion that high prices for competitive commodities are caused by high rents for land. But the notion sticks, and we are glad now to quote in our support a clear cut and brief exposition of the subject by a professor of economics in one of our leading colleges.

The quotation is from an article by Prof. Warren M. Persons, which appeared in the issue of *La Follette's Weekly Magazine* for March 26.

Prefacing his article with the statement that "if there is any economic proposition that can be said to be universally held by economists it is" that "high rents do *not* cause high prices." Prof. Persons goes on to say:

Are the shoppers deceived who go from Madison or Janesville, Wis., to Chicago in order to buy their goods of the great department stores?

Are the prices of goods at Wanamaker's in New York, or at Marshall Field's in Chicago, necessarily higher than the prices of other dealers who pay much less rent?

A little consideration will show that the large rents on State street in Chicago or on Broadway in New York are due to the fact that these streets are traffic centers.

Wanamaker is enabled to pay an enormous rental because his location enables him to make enormous sales.

The owners of favored sites simply absorb as rent what those sites are worth for business purposes. A landlord of a location in the suburbs, or in a smaller city would be willing to take as much, but he can not obtain more than the site is worth for use.

Prices are determined entirely independently of rents.

No one expects to get a cheaper suit of clothes by leaving New York and going to Jersey City.

If higher prices can, for any reason, be obtained for goods than were formerly received and thereby the merchants are enabled to obtain greater profits than heretofore, they will bid against each other for favorite locations. Thus the landlord will receive more rent than formerly. It is the increase in prices that causes the increase in urban rents.

After that clear treatment of the question of rents and prices with reference to cities, Prof. Persons applies the same principle in this equally admirable fashion to agricultural regions:

I am writing from New Hampshire, a State of many abandoned farms. The State issues a booklet through the Secretary of State describing many abandoned farms which may be purchased for less than it would cost to duplicate the buildings on them. Any number of farms can be bought for \$5 to \$20 an acre. The reason that the farms have been abandoned is because they cannot produce wheat, corn and oats in competition with the farms of Iowa and Minnesota at the present prices of those cereals.

If prices should continue to rise it is probable that the time will again come when it will be profitable to work the abandoned farms of New Hampshire and Vermont.

It is only through an increase in prices of agricultural products that an increase of rents or selling price of these lands can come about. The farming lands of the West have increased in value from \$50 to \$100, or from \$75 to \$150 an acre because of the increase in the prices of their products and not vice versa.

The mistaken notion which Prof. Persons so clearly explains away, may find an appearance of support in the fact that absolute and concentrated monopoly of land may enable its monopolizers to raise the price of its products.

If, for illustration, all the coal mines were absolutely monopolized by a syndicate, the syndicate might raise the price of coal above the point at which it would rest if the owners of coal mines were in competition. In the latter case the price of coal would be governed by the cost of produc-

tion from the cheapest mines; in the former case it would be governed by the highest price yielding the greatest profit.

But in neither case would rent fix the prices. On the contrary, in both cases, prices would fix the rent.

The same principle applies to other commodities than coal—to meat, for instance. The meat trust has a monopoly of the land used as great shipping terminals for domestic meats. Having that monopoly, it is in the advantageous position of the imagined coal syndicate. It can place an arbitrarily high price upon meat.

If foreign meats were admitted free of duty, its monopoly of terminals would give it less advantage—might possibly deprive it of all advantage.

But in either case it would not be the rent or land value of the meat trust's terminals that would cause higher or lower prices of meat. The higher or lower prices of meat would make the rent or land value of those terminals higher or lower—lower if free trade in meat compelled the trust to cut down prices, and higher if tariffs on imported meats enabled the trust to raise prices.

Upon this principle, so pointedly explained by Prof. Persons, the single tax idea rests for efficiency as an industrial reform. By exempting industrial products from taxation, and imposing taxes on land heavily in proportion to its value, whether used or not, you reduce prices, prevent land monopoly, and lower rents.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

DIRECT LEGISLATION SENTIMENT IN MARYLAND.

Baltimore, Md., March 24th

A bill was introduced in the lower house of the Maryland legislature on February 1st, providing for a Constitutional amendment establishing the Initiative and Referendum in this State, and about that time the Direct Legislation League of Maryland was organized. Only about one man in ten had apparently ever heard the words before, and it was an even chance that he had a nebulous idea that it was some sort of horse medicine. However, an agitation was started, copies of the bill and pamphlets describing the principle were circulated, letters were sent to the various civic and business organizations, and Francis I. Mooney addressed a number of their meetings on behalf of the measure.

Within a month no less than ten trades bodies and improvement associations formally indorsed the bill, and either wrote or sent delegates to the committee hearings at Annapolis. At the House committee hearing we were fortunate in getting United States Senators Owen of Oklahoma and Chamberlain of Oregon to go down from Washington. They made eloquent speeches in behalf of the measure.

Herbert S. Bigelow came from Cincinnati on March 14th, to boom matters for us, and proved one of the biggest successes. Immediately upon his arrival Mr. Bigelow addressed a meeting of the City Council, and later on that evening spoke under the auspices of the Settlement Association at the Friends' Meeting House. The next day he addressed the Class of Economics at Goucher College in the morning, the Woman's Suffrage Association in the afternoon, and a joint meeting of improvement associations in the evening. On Wednesday the Federation of Labor heard him with great enthusiasm, and the following day Mr. Bigelow spoke in the Senate Chamber at Annapolis before the Constitutional Amendment Committee and a number of other Senators. Friday afternoon Mr. Bigelow pointed out at a meeting of the Equal Suffrage League of Baltimore that women's suffrage may be attained through the Initiative and Referendum just as soon as popular sentiment warrants it, without the humiliating conditions that attend an effort to secure its enactment at the hands of such "miscellaneous" elements as make up our legislatures nowadays. On Friday night a banquet was given him at the City Hotel, which was attended by more than a hundred citizens; and after an eloquent after-dinner speech he left for Cincinnati, bearing the good wishes of all who had had the privilege of meeting or hearing him speak.

To sum up. While our bill has not yet come out of committee in either house, we have hopes of a favorable report in the Senate. In less than two months the Initiative and Referendum movement in Maryland is beginning to find itself famous. Extensive press notices have been given it. The man in the street is getting to know the words (it is a pity that they are so difficult), and is awakening to the fact that they stand for a political instead of a veterinary purpose. And a large and growing body of enthusiasts are preparing to let no guilty man escape until genuine popular sovereignty is secured in this State by the establishment of Direct Legislation.

CHAS. J. OGLE.

* * *

CHINESE PROGRESS.*

San Francisco, Cal.

Business is quite hard with the Chinese in San Francisco, everything is high and the rents are three or four hundred per cent higher than before the fire, and business is not as large. The Chinese people have scattered to all parts of the country since the earthquake and fire, and about seventy per cent have returned to San Francisco. However, our new Chinatown is much superior to the one destroyed by earthquake and fire, more substantial, more sanitary, and less odorous.

We have now a new administration for our city, an administration composed of labor men, and it intends to give more freedom to the Chinese in the Chinese quarters to conduct their business and to allow them wider scope to enjoy their national pleasure, namely, the game of chance. The former administration was very strict, it closed every gambling place in the Chinese quarters, while in other parts of the city gambling was allowed, though under cover.

*See "How I Tried to Get Assimilated," page 302 of this Public.

Since the earthquake and fire a new sentiment has sprung up among the Chinese people, namely, a progressive spirit and a tendency to discard the old ideas and customs. More than half of the Chinese now have their queues cut off and have adopted American clothes. They also are abandoning their heathenish religious services in their temples. There is only one temple now in the Chinese quarters, while there were scores before the fire and earthquake.

At the present time, the Chinese have no faith in their idols and they ridicule those that worship in this temple. Also the number of newspaper readers is increasing.

The radical change in sentiment and ideas in this country reflects the national changes now taking place in China. Wonderful changes are now going on there today. China, is, indeed, a new China, and not old "Cathay" any more. During the last couple of years hundreds of newspapers have been established in different parts of the Chinese Empire. All are now clamoring for reform, new knowledge and foreign intelligence. I believe the present century will witness the complete transformation of the Chinese Empire from the old and weak one to a most vigorous and powerful one. The new Chinese system of education, which was established on September 2, 1907, will work wonders in China. The old system of education, which was in vogue for thousands of years, was completely abolished by an Imperial edict, and in its place the new system, patterned after that of this country and Europe, has been established. Our Chinese youths, boys and girls, are eager to obtain modern and even a foreign education. A few months ago, when the Chinese government wanted to send a first batch of Chinese students to this country, and called for candidates, more than seven hundred bright Chinese young men appeared in Peking to undergo a most severe examination, and from among the seven hundred only fifty were chosen; but next year there will be 150 sent over, and in a short time there will be a thousand Chinese students eagerly pursuing the Western knowledge in American universities and colleges.

This is the best and most substantial and promising sign of China's future. We expect great things from the next generation, and we may yet live to see the day when China comes to her own, and when she will be able to stand upon her feet and say to all foreign aggressors: Thus far shall you go, and no farther. We are very grateful to the United States for her stand in defending China's integrity, and we will always remember the gracious acts of this country in our behalf. Some of these days, we, the sons of China, will unite our voices with yours in singing: "China and America forever."

NG POON CHEW.

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The true patriot interprets "love of country" to signify love for the people who are in it. He will express this feeling by a special interest in their welfare and effort to make them the purest, noblest and happiest among the nations of the earth. This love will necessarily expand into a world-wide love, for all men have a common origin, need, nature and destiny.—John C. Havemeyer.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before, continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, March 29, 1910.

Cannonism in Congress.

Six of the new rules committee of the lower House of Congress (p. 274) were chosen by the Republican caucus on the 23d. The Insurgent Republicans went into the caucus (composed of 189 out of the 219 Republican Congressmen), but they were not recognized in the selection of Republican members of the Committee. Every one of the six is a Stand-pat Republican. They are: Walter I. Smith of Iowa, whose vote in the caucus was 168; John Dalzell of Pennsylvania, whose vote was 146; Sylvester C. Smith of California, with a vote of 136; George P. Lawrence of Massachusetts with a vote of 126, and J. Sloat Fassett and Henry S. Boutell, respectively of New York and Illinois, with a vote respectively of 113 and 108. The Democrats selected their four members on the 24th as follows: Champ Clark of Missouri; Oscar W. Underwood of Alabama; Lincoln Dixon of Indiana and John J. Fitzgerald of New York. On the 25th this Committee of ten as nominated by the caucuses, was elected by the House.

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Republican Defeat in Massachusetts On the Tariff.

While the Stand-pat Republicans were canvassing the make-up of a rules committee in conformity with Speaker Cannon's policy, an election was in progress in a Republican stronghold in Massachusetts. The result is regarded as an indication of popular reaction against the Stand-pat Republicans. It was on the 22d in the 14th Congressional District of Massachusetts, where the normal Republican majority is 14,000. Eugene N. Foss, formerly a Republican, contested the seat as the Democratic nominee, and was elected by 5840 majority.

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Two issues were discussed in the campaign. One was Canadian reciprocity, of which Mr. Foss is a champion; the other was the high prices of living. Mr. Foss attributed high prices to the Aldrich tariff; whilst Senator Lodge, who campaigned against him, argued that the increase of prices was mostly for articles upon which the duty had been lowered. In reply to Senator Lodge

Mr. Foss published the following table of the prices of high tariffed necessaries in the United States in comparison with prices in Canada:

	St. Johns. Cents.	Mon- treal. Cents.	Bos- ton. Cents.
Sirloin steak.....	22	18	35
Porterhouse	22
Rump steak.....
Upper cuts.....	20	18	35
Lower cuts.....	14	14	24
Sirloin roast.....	20	18	25
Rib roast.....	20	15	25
Other roasts.....	12	..	18
Other roasts.....	18-18	12-15	20-22
Chickens	16-20	20	35
Roast pork.....	18	20	20
Salt pork.....	16	15	16
Ham	18	19	24
Bacon	20	22	25
Fresh eggs.....	40	50	55
Storage eggs.....	20	35	35
Potatoes	50	72	70
Lamb leg.....	18	15	18
Lamb chops.....	20	18	40
Loin cuts.....	12	10-12	15
Lamb forequarter.....	12	14	15
Lamb hindquarter.....	18	12	18
Mutton legs.....	16	10-12	20
Mutton chops.....	18	14	22
Flour, barrel.....	\$6.25-6.75	\$5.50-6	\$7.50

+

After his election Mr. Foss declared that,—
the result showed “a demand by the people that the Republican party fulfill its pledge for an honest reduction of the tariff. It is a demand for the immediate repeal of section 2 of the Payne-Aldrich act, which substitutes retaliation for reciprocity and threatens commercial warfare with our best customers.”

The statement of his defeated adversary, William L. Buchanan, was even more significant of present political tendencies. He said:

If the result will serve to convince the Republican leaders at Washington that something must be speedily accomplished in the way of lowering the cost of living I shall feel that my defeat has not been without value.

+ +

Insurgent Republicanism in the East.

Further indications of the present political drift in the East are furnished by the Chicago Tribune in a poll of Republican newspapers in the New England and the Eastern States in response to the question, “Do you endorse the Aldrich tariff law?” Out of 123 answers from New England, only 39 were in the affirmative, the rest being negative. No answers were received from 157 papers. From New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland 548 answers were received, of which only 142 were affirmative, 406 being negative. None were received from 654 papers. To sum up

the answers from the eleven States of the East, 1425 Republican papers were interrogated, of which 181 favored the Aldrich tariff, 590 opposed it, and 654 were non-committal.

+ +

The Saloon Referendum in Chicago.

In consequence of a decision of the election commissioners the referendum on “wet” or “dry” for Chicago (p. 266) will not come off at the municipal election next week. The law under which this referendum was petitioned for was enacted by the Illinois Legislature at the session of 1907. It provides for the filing of a petition not less than sixty days before the election, nor longer than six months, to be signed by at least one-fourth of the total vote cast at the last preceding election, the signers to be “legal voters” in the political subdivision to be affected, and in places where registration is required, to be also “duly registered voters.” The question for submission is thus defined in the law: “Shall this [town, precinct, city or village, as the case may be] become anti-saloon territory?” If a majority vote in the affirmative, the political subdivision in question shall at the expiration of 30 days be anti-saloon territory and no intoxicating liquor may be sold therein except at drug stores for special purposes and with specific and minute entries of each sale in a book to be kept for the purpose. A Federal license is to be regarded as prima facie evidence against the licensee, and all places where liquor is sold lawlessly are to be abated as common nuisances. The petition for Chicago aroused the liquor interests, and a vigorous fight upon the petition was made, with the result noted above. It appeared that some fake names had been signed, though not enough to bring the number of signers below the statutory requirements; but the election commissioners held that any person whose residence at the time of signing the petition was not the same as when he voted last was not a “duly registered legal voter.” As this subtle interpretation of the law ruled out the signatures of all voters who had moved since voting at the election last November (no opportunity having been afforded them to correct their registration before the last day for filing the petition), the number of lawful signers was reduced below the limit set by the law, and therefore the petition was declared invalid.

+ +

The Seamen's Strike On the Lakes.

As little has been said in the newspapers of the strike on the Great Lakes, which began a year ago (vol. xii, p. 494) and is in progress still, the press committee of the Lake District of the International Seamen's Union of America have issued a statement of the facts, in which they remind the public that—
the great seamen's struggle for the maintenance of

human freedom on the Great Lakes is still in progress. Ten thousand seamen have been on strike against the shipowners (known as the Lake Carriers' Association) since the month of May, 1909, and the battle is still being waged as bitterly as in the beginning. The Lake Carriers, by the way, are really controlled by the Pittsburg Steamship Company, a subsidiary of the Steel Trust.

The strike was brought about by an attempt on the part of the shipowners to compel the union men to hand over their union books and cards to the employers and to pledge themselves never again to join a labor union "as long as they sailed for a living." This the Lake Carriers called "open shop."

This was followed by a further attempt on the part of the Lake Carriers to inaugurate an industrial passport system which they had dignified by the name of "welfare plan," but which was modeled upon the police system of Russia and the notorious English shipping federation scheme which brought about such havoc on the English merchant marine, resulting in the employment of Asiatic labor on over a third of the vessels of that country; 70,000 Asiatics had to be employed because the federation scheme so lowered the wages and conditions that white men could no longer be induced to ship on those vessels.

The "welfare plan" passports of the Lake Carriers, obtained only after registration of name, personal appearance, past history, etc., are intended to keep the seamen under constant control of the shipowners, whether the seamen are employed or not. While ashore these passports must be exhibited to the shipping masters of the Lake Carriers, the holder being required to frequent certain places called "assembly rooms" while out of employment. Upon being given a job the seaman must deposit his passport with the ship's master, who will return it to him when he leaves the vessel, provided the master has been satisfied with the services of the seaman; otherwise the passport is taken up and returned to the Lake Carriers, and the sailor is forever blacklisted. Every owner, shipping master and ship's officer has the full authority under this "welfare plan" to at any time, for any or no reason, blacklist any sailor or marine fireman or cook. Afloat or ashore, constant restraint and espionage is to be applied to every seaman. It was a deliberate attempt on the part of the shipowners to establish serfdom on the Great Lakes. The seamen are on strike to prevent this.

The American Federation of Labor has indorsed the strike and has pledged moral aid, should it be needed, financial aid. But at present the seamen are asking nothing except the moral support and the active sympathy of all workmen. They make this request of union men everywhere: "Pass the word along, brother, there is a strike on the Great Lakes; advise all unemployed workers to keep away."

* *

The British Parliament.

The resolutions relative to the Lords' veto, of which formal notice was given by the British ministry in the House of Commons on the 21st (p. 275), were formally moved on the 29th, pursuant to the agreed program (p. 293), and the debate upon their adoption began.

Old Age Pensions in France.

The workmen's pension bill which has been the subject of legislative controversy in France for four years, passed the Chamber of Deputies in the latter part of February, and on March 22d passed the Senate in somewhat amended form by a vote of 280 to 3. The Associated Press dispatches thus describe the bill:

The benefit of the law, which has been modified to include in its scheme the previous old-age relief law, will be enjoyed by about 17,000,000 persons, including every category of workers except railroad employes, miners and seamen, who already enjoy pensions. As all state employes are retired upon pensions at a specified age, this law, therefore, practically extends the old-age pension system to all the laborers of France.

The plan involves contributions from three sources for the creation of the pension fund. First, obligatory yearly contributions from the wage-earners amounting to 9 francs for men, 6 francs for women and 4½ francs for minors; second, the contribution of the employer, which equals that of the wage-earner, and, third, the contribution of the state.

Even the experts differ as to what the last will be, but the generally accepted figure is 180,000,000 francs (\$36,000,000) for the first year, the amount decreasing until the scheme works normally, when it will be about 125,000,000 francs. The beneficiaries are to draw their pensions at the age of 65, or after thirty years of service, with certain diminutions for advance payment. The full pension at the lowest unit of contribution will be 414 francs per annum; except for farm laborers, whose contribution and pension is slightly inferior.

The London Nation calls it "a timid and exiguous scheme, which confers a miserable dole on a contributory basis, the burden being divided between the worker, the employer, and the state;" and says proudly: "The timidity of the democratic party which rejoices in the bold name of Radical-Socialist, and obeys the spur, not of a Labor, but of a Socialist group, makes a striking contrast to the achievement of our own Liberalism without adjectives."

* *

Theodore Roosevelt Angers the Egyptian Nationalists.

As Mr. Roosevelt, after his year's big hunt in Africa (vol. xii, p. 300) came northward across the Soudan he gave advice to the Soudanese to be loyal to their English rulers, and in general gave warm approval to the English protectorate in Africa. This aroused fears on the part of the Nationalist party of Egypt, who stand upon the platform of "Egypt for the Egyptians" (vol. x, pp. 12, 35; vol. xii, p. 541), that the weighty influence of the distinguished American traveler who seemed to have no scruples about meddling in local politics, might be thrown against them. In advance of his arrival in Cairo, the headquarters of the Nationalists, therefore, the Sheik Ali Youssef, the head of the

party and the friend of the Khedive, published an open letter to Mr. Roosevelt, in which he said:

You are now traveling through the valley of the Nile, where you see luxurious verdure and tranquillity among the inhabitants. You do not suppose that we consider these blessings are all grants given by Lord Cromer during the quarter of a century he was here? We fear that the wealth and happiness you will see in Egypt, which is occupied by a foreign power, will dazzle your eyes and lead you to advise the audiences that will come to listen to your speeches to preserve the status quo, and that you will eulogize the British occupation. If you do this you certainly will modify the pleasure of the Egyptians who are anxious to meet you. We hope you will not address us in the same terms you addressed the Soudanese, and that you will give satisfaction to the people of this country by a word of justice and sympathy. For if a conquered people cannot find a defender like you among great men, you who can give lessons by your speeches to strong powers as well as to weak nations, we may bid farewell to liberty and perish.

Mr. Roosevelt arrived at Cairo on the 24th. Observers report that there was a strange undercurrent of hostility on the part of the populace, which was, however, given no outward expression. On account of a dread of what might happen some functions arranged for the visitor were altered or foregone, and advice appears to have been given to the American guest to leave questions of political import untouched. This advice was not taken, at least for Mr. Roosevelt's climax speech, delivered at the University of Cairo on the 28th, which had been anticipated with some alarm. The students of the University ostentatiously absented themselves, and the audience consisted chiefly of English, French and Americans and a few Egyptians. Mr. Roosevelt told the Egyptians of their unfitness for self-government, the preparation for which "is not a matter of a decade or two, but of generations." He further violently denounced the assassination by a Nationalist student of the Egyptian Premier, which occurred on February 20. While the Nationalist Party was not responsible for this assassination, there has been sympathy with the act as a political necessity. This sympathetic attitude Mr. Roosevelt also denounced in the strongest language, using words no Egyptian, and, indeed, no Englishman, ever had dared to speak. In fact, say the dispatches, although Butros was assassinated a month ago, the assassin has not yet been tried, the English apparently being unwilling for some reason to proceed promptly with the case. After the address had been delivered a native officer is quoted as saying: "For 3,000 years we Egyptians have suffered alien rule. How much longer must we wait before we are competent for self-government?" Walter Wellman writes to the Chicago Record-Herald that "others declare that Colonel Roosevelt is throwing his influence to the British in order to repay the obligations incurred by him in Uganda and during the

voyage down the Nile. Neutral observers assert that the natives would never stand such a talk from an Englishman or a Frenchman, and wonder why they take it from an American." On the evening of the day of the University address the leaders of the Nationalist Party, angered almost beyond expression at the speech, called a hurried conclave to voice disapproval of the American's interference in Egyptian affairs. The meeting was violent, and the counselors of moderation were quelled only after strong argument. At its close, however, the Nationalist leaders had been instructed officially to express the anger of the party at what was termed Mr. Roosevelt's "unwarranted action to discourage the Egyptian nation in its struggle for independence."

NEWS NOTES

—Again Menelik, the great Negus of Abyssinia, is reported to be dying (vol. xii, p. 1256.)

—The first primary election under the commission form of government in Kansas City, Mo. (vol. xii, p. 711), came off on the 28th.

—The first election under the Des Moines plan in Sioux City, Iowa (p. 182), was held on the 28th, and A. A. Smith was elected mayor.

—At the second election in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, under the Des Moines plan (vol. x, p. 1233; vol. xii, pp. 114, 519), J. M. Miles was re-elected mayor.

—The second election at Des Moines under the Des Moines commission plan (vol. xii, pp. 322, 331, 519) came off on the 28th. Issues were complex and the result was close.

—The mountain town of Mount Hope in West Virginia was wiped off the map by fire on the 24th. Only six houses were left standing. Nearly 3,000 persons were made homeless.

—Charles J. O'Malley, successor of Dr. Judge (vol. x, p. 902) as editor of the New World, the official organ of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, died on the 26th at the age of 53.

—While the United States cruiser Charleston was engaged in gun practice in Philippine waters on the 28th, the breechlock of a three-inch gun blew off and killed eight men, seven of them instantly.

—Between three and four hundred persons, gathered for a public ball in the coachhouse of a hotel in the little Hungarian village of Oekoerite on the 27th, perished by fire. Hardly any one escaped.

—An amicable adjustment of difficulties between the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers and the General Managers' Association of the Western railroads (p. 254) was made on the 23d.

—A State land congress for Arkansas, held at Little Rock, adjourned on the 25th after adopting a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee to promote the industrial development of the state.

—A petition for an initiative vote under the new Constitution of Michigan has been filed in Detroit with a view to securing a popular vote in that city

on the question of municipal ownership and operation of street railways.

—By the burning of the premises of the L. Fish Furniture Company on Wabash ave., Chicago, on the 25th, twelve persons—eight girls and four men—perished. Lack of fire escapes and proper precautions against fire caused the deaths.

—Beginning the first of May and until the first of October, Cincinnati's clocks will run an hour ahead of time. This is done so that the working day may end an hour earlier by the sun, thereby giving an extra hour a day of sunlight for recreation, to be made up in the morning.

—The Italian Ministry of Agriculture has issued a decree offering five prizes amounting to \$5,790 for an international competition of appliances and systems for the prevention of labor accidents, entries to be received by December 31, 1911. Copies of the decree—in French—may be secured from the United States Bureau of Manufactures.

—Steps were taken on the 24th by members of labor unions of Philadelphia to form a new political party. At a secret meeting, attended by about 500 delegates from unions, a committee of 11, of which John J. Murphy, president of the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia, is chairman, was appointed to supervise the details of organization.

—The citizens of the tiny state of Monaco are to have the constitutional government they were reported last week to be demanding (p. 276). On the 28th their absolute ruler, Prince Albert, decreed the election of a parliament or municipal council through universal suffrage. He reserves the right to select the mayor, but grants further liberty of the press.

—Russian salt production has been monopolized and the price raised over 400 per cent. According to the United States Consular reports, the fifteen principal lake salt industries, formerly owned and rented out at low price by the government, have now fallen into the hands of one family. Suit has been instituted in the courts of Odessa against the combine.

—The expulsion of Jews from Russia (vol. xii, p. 951) is proceeding on a large scale, according to the American Jewish Committee. The committee announced from New York on the 22nd that the Russian ministry itself is issuing the orders for expulsion. Hundreds of families that have lived for years in Kief, Riga, Kasan and Woronesch are being driven out.

—Ex-Mayor Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland, sailed from New York on the 23d by the *Mauretania*, with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fels, for a short rest in Europe. He was heard from by wireless on the 25th, when he was reported as having still further improved in health. On the 28th the *Mauretania* was reported by wireless as nearing the end of her voyage. On the 30th she reached Liverpool.

—Winston Churchill, the new British home secretary, according to dispatches of the 26th, has been ordering a number of prison reforms. He is said to have authorized the prison commission to relieve all prisoners not guilty of violence of many degradations hitherto put upon them by the prison rules. For instance, they may wear their own clothes, and will not be forced to clean their own cells. They also

may occupy part of their time in reading their favorite authors. In this category are included militant suffragists who may get into trouble. At the new prison for habitual convicts at Parkhurst a recreation ground an acre in size is to be provided.

—Frank Stephens of Philadelphia made an argument before the revenue commission of Pennsylvania on the 24th, published in full in the Philadelphia Record of the 25th, in which he impressively advocated county freedom in county taxation, mineral sites for State taxation, site values for local taxation, the abolition of personal property taxation, and the separate assessment of land values and total values and their publication.

—Mount Etna on the island of Sicily is in eruption. Twelve new craters were reported to be open on the 24th, pouring forth streams of lava which met at the base of the mountain in a solid river more than three yards deep. Many peasants' houses had been buried. On the 25th there were fifteen craters active. There was subsidence on the 26th, but increase of violence again by the 28th. Both Sicily and Italy have suffered from earthquake shocks since the eruption began.

—The bill for the exemption from taxation of personal property and structures on land (p. 232), prepared by George Wallace, formerly a Republican member of the New York legislature, and introduced in that body this year by Representative Willsnack, came before the House Committee on taxation on the 22d, where it was discussed by Mr. Wallace, Joseph F. Darling (formerly Deputy Attorney General), and Mrs. Graham of New York City, all of whom advocated the bill on single tax grounds.

—A bill providing for the raising and removal of the United States battleship *Maine*, the sinking of which in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, in 1898 (vol. 1, No. 1, p. 9) was the sensational prelude to the Spanish American war, passed the House of Representatives on the 23rd. Under the provisions of this bill, if it passes the Senate and is signed by the President, it may be possible to discover the cause of the wreck. The necessity for the consent of the Republic of Cuba is recognized by the bill.

—The Iowa Democratic Club has completed arrangements for its annual Jefferson banquet to be held at the Savery Hotel, Des Moines, on the evening of the eighth of April. Governor Shallenbarger of Nebraska is to be the principal speaker, and Governor Burke of North Dakota, is expected to be present. If his health permits, ex-Governor Boies, of Iowa, will also be present. On the list of "home" speakers are General James B. Weaver, Judge Martin J. Wade, Claude R. Porter, John D. Denison and Fred E. White. Tickets to the banquet, \$1.50, may be purchased from the Club's president, H. C. Evans, of Des Moines, or the secretary, A. R. McCook of Shell Rock, Iowa.

PRESS OPINIONS

Political Trials in Russia.

The (London) Nation (Ldb.), March 12.—It should not be assumed that the procedure of Russian political trials has improved because Mr. Tchaykowsky

has been acquitted. Few prisoners who come before these courts are well known abroad. No great harm ever comes to the Tolstoys, or the Gorkys. It is the obscure and friendless who pay.

* *

The Shadow of Coming Events.

The Boston Journal, March 25.—There are those who believe the Republican party and the Democratic party alike will be disrupted and that the two parties of the near future will be the liberal and the conservative, the progressive and the tory. It may well be doubted if this will soon come to pass. But it is a certainty that if the Republican party is going to preserve itself it will have to undergo reorganization and will have to get in step with the spirit of progress that has taken possession of the voters in practically every section of the Union.

* *

The Rooseveltian War Spirit.

Racine (Wisc.) Daily Times, March 26.—If there is one thing above all others for which the administration of President Roosevelt will be criticised by future historians, it is the great impetus given to the war spirit of the nation and the colossal expenditures for war purposes. . . . For the seven years of Roosevelt and one year of Taft, years of profound peace, there has been an increase in expenditure for war purposes over the previous eight years, of \$1,072,000,000. What an awful waste of human energy this stupendous sum involves and what great and wonderful things could have been done with it if expended to useful purposes.

* *

Back from Elba.

The (Chicago) Inter-Ocean (Rep.), March 26.—Many Republicans who object to a third term for Mr. Roosevelt are showing signs of unrest. The theatrical manner in which Mr. Roosevelt's return from Africa is being stage-managed, the disorganization of the Republican party in Congress, and the mildness of Mr. Taft's popular reception on his recent tour from Chicago to Albany have combined to spread the impression that things are slipping in the direction of the Former President. To us this impression seems fairly warranted by the facts. . . . Those who have any thoughts to think on the third term proposition would do well to think them now. It is not too early. In ninety days it may be too late.

* *

Whose President Is President Taft?

Milwaukee Journal (Rep.), March 19.—Opposition to the bill drawn by Wickersham to amend the Interstate Commerce Act is illuminating of the work that the Insurgents are doing to give force to the pledge of loyalty to progressive policies. When the bill was introduced in Congress, it was announced that it was the Administration's purpose to make support of it a test of party regularity. It was threatened that opposition to the measure would invite the President's displeasure and that no amendments were to be accepted from insurgent sources. The opening of the debate on the Wickersham measure has disclosed "jokers" that even such men as Elkins lack the courage to defend. It is disclosed

that the bill as it left the White house virtually was a railway measure—that it was designed to nullify the Supreme Court's decision in the Northern Securities case and to legalize railway mergers now under the ban of the law. With the Attorney General vested with the sole power to prosecute or defend appeals, the shippers would be placed at the mercy of a single official—invariably recruited from the ranks of the railways' own attorneys. With joker after joker uncovered, the President has been forced to come down from his high horse.

* *

The Insurgent Victory in Congress.

La Follette's Weekly Magazine (Ind. Rep.), March 26.—The new committee on rules will be selected by caucus. Heretofore it has been appointed by the Speaker. It will consist of ten members. Heretofore there have been five. The Speaker will not be a member of this committee. Heretofore he has been its chairman. . . . The new committee on rules will have the same power as the old committee on rules; that is, whenever a majority of its members so determine, it is privileged to present for the consideration of the House a special rule or motion with respect to some particular bill or proceedings. It has always had that power. The Republican majority of this committee on rules will be named by a Republican caucus. The steel trust, the sugar trust, the beef trust, the cotton trust, in short the System, will control in that caucus by an overwhelming majority. It dominates both branches of Congress. It speaks through Aldrich in the Senate and through Cannon in the House. It will control the new committee on rules. If for diplomatic reasons it places an insurgent Republican on the committee, it will be strong enough to balance that appointment with a Tammany Democrat. Cannon will not be a member of the committee, but the System will be as potential on that committee as though Cannon were its chairman. Sheltered behind the committee, he will be as effective an instrument for wrong as though he were still its head and front. He may be even more dangerous. His offensive arrogance, his coarse personality, will be less conspicuous. . . . The victory will strengthen the morale of the progressive organization. It will demonstrate that the System can be beaten. But it will be clearly understood that little was achieved besides the temporary humiliation of an old man of bad eminence, whose successor the System must, at all events, soon put forward.

* *

The Chicago Liquor Liberty Ring.

Chicago Daily Socialist (soc.), March 28.—Those who were foolish enough to think that the United Societies stand for "personal liberty," except the personal liberty to make profits by selling alcoholic liquors, will now have an opportunity to revise their opinion. This organization has had the colossal impudence to post the names of those who signed the referendum petition in the localities where the signers live and to accompany this public posting with the suggestion that the signers are to be boycotted. This petition asked only that the voters have a chance to express their opinion upon a question on which there is certainly a decided difference of opinion. Do the United Societies propose to ter-

rorize those who dare to ask for such a vote? This piece of impudence and tyranny is but illustrative of the forces that are behind the "wet" campaign. It is probably a good thing that the question is not to be on the ballot this spring. It will bring other and more important issues to the front. But when any body of profit-seeking politicians propose to intimidate those who dare to ask for a referendum it is time for the character of such a gang to be thoroughly recognized.

* * *

Tom L. Johnson's Vacation.

The (Johnstown, Pa.) Daily Democrat (dem.-Dem.), March 25.—The stories emanating from New York regarding Tom L. Johnson's health are probably much exaggerated. It was known weeks ago by his friends that he was to accompany Joseph Fels on the return of the latter to London. It was also known that he was to visit New York in advance for the purpose of renewing treatment. In a private letter dated March 11 he wrote: "I am leaving tomorrow night for New York to take up my treatment for a week or ten days. I am feeling better every day, but purpose following up gains already made, so as to be perfectly well and get the most enjoyment possible out of the work I want to help forward." Mr. Johnson's condition is the result of over-strain. He put in eight years of ceaseless struggle in behalf of good government in Cleveland, and few men could have so long stood up under the terrific load of care and anxiety. He believes and his friends ardently hope that the sea voyage and the long rest he intends to take will put him on his feet again and restore him to his old fighting trim.

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

BRESHKOVSKAYA.

Elsa Barker in the New York Times.

How narrow seems the round of ladies' lives
And ladies' duties in their smiling world,
The day this Titan woman, gray with years,
Goes out across the void to prove her soul!
Brief are the pangs of motherhood, that end
In motherhood's long joy; but she has borne
The age-long travail of a cause that lies
Still-born at last on History's cold lap.
And yet she rests not; yet she will not drink
The cup of peace held to her parching lips
By smug Dishonor's hand. Nay, forth she fares,
Old and alone, on exile's rocky road—
That well-worn road with snows incarnadined
By blood drops from her feet long years ago.

Mother of power, my soul goes out to you
As a strong swimmer goes to meet the sea
Upon whose vastness he is like a leaf.
What are the ends and purposes of song,
Save as a bugle at the lips of Life
To sound reveillé to a drowsing world
When some great deed is rising like the sun?

Where are those others whom your deeds inspired
To deeds and words that were themselves a deed?
Those who believed in death have gone with death
To the gray crags of immortality;
Those who have believed in life have gone with life
To the red halls of spiritual death.

And you? But what is death or life to you?
Only a weapon in the hand of faith
To cleave a way for beings yet unborn
To a far freedom you will never share!
Freedom of body is an empty shell
Wherein men crawl whose souls are held with gyves;
For Freedom is a spirit, and she dwells
As often in a jail as on the hills.
In all the world this day there is no soul
Freer than you, Breshkovskaya, as you stand
Facing the future in your narrow cell.
For you are free of self and free of fear,
Those twin-born shades that lie in wait for man
When he steps out upon the wind-blown road
That leads to human greatness and to pain.
Take in your hand once more the pilgrim's staff—
Your delicate hand misshapen from the nights
In Kara's mines; bind on your unbent back,
That long has borne the burdens of the race,
The exile's bundle, and upon your feet
Strap the worn sandals of a tireless faith.

You are too great for pity. After you
We send not sobs, but songs; and all our days
We shall walk bravelier knowing where you are.

* * *

"GRANDMOTHER" OF REVOLUTION.

The Springfield (Mass.) Weekly Republican of March 17, 1910.

"Mme. Breshkovsky spoke briefly," one reads, "mainly in an effort to clear Tschaikovsky."* The self-sacrifice, which has been the keynote of this remarkable woman's career, thus appeared transcendent in the trial at St. Petersburg last week. Sixty-eight years old this celebrated revolutionist again goes into exile, where she has already spent so much of her life. Happily, the severest hardships of penal servitude are not now in store for her, but probably this marks the end of her active career. "Babushka," or "grandmother," as she is affectionately known by the revolutionary party, thus passes from the stage.

It was very early in life that Katharine Breshkovsky dedicated herself to the cause of the uplift of the Russian people. Well born, her father inspired her with liberal ideas and taught her to reflect upon the conditions around her. Imagine Russia as it was fifty years ago. The entire laboring class was still in slavery, for Alexander II had not yet emancipated the serfs. At nineteen years of age, Katharine went to St. Petersburg and, curiously, she met on the

*See The Public of March 18, page 255.—Editors of The Public.

train Prince Peter Kropotkin, who was later on to become celebrated as a Russian revolutionist and exile. He was already bursting with zeal to attack the Russian system, and, on that journey, he inspired the young woman with the revolutionary spirit. She did not, however, immediately enter upon revolutionary work. She married a nobleman and with him endeavored to educate the peasants on their estate. It was when the government interfered with their efforts and placed them under police surveillance as conspirators that Katharine finally revolted. She was then 26. The husband declined to enter upon an avowedly revolutionary career, defying all established authority, and the wife left him, determined, as she afterward said, "to suffer exile and death, if necessary, in the cause of freedom."

The Russia of the late 60's and early 70's was not a particularly comfortable place for a beautiful and well-born young woman who had chosen so precarious a career. To be sure, the Czar had liberated the serfs. But something remained to be done. Katharine could not wait as patiently as some fine people of her class for things to move themselves. "I went to Kieff, joined a revolutionary group and traveled from town to town, spreading our ideas. I put on peasant dress to elude the police and break down the peasants' cringing distrust. I dressed in enormous bark shoes, coarse skirt, and heavy cloak. I used acid on my hands and face; I worked and ate with the peasants; I learned their speech; I traveled on foot, forging passports; I lived 'illegally.'" Acid on her face! Thus was sacrificed one of the best complexions in Russia. Katharine Breshkovsky wasn't thinking of her beauty. She wished to reach the peasants and having a peasant's complexion rather than a fine lady's facilitated her task. A heroine already! And she had hardly begun.

The first arrest came in 1874. There was a night in a "black hole," the salubrious summer resort then maintained for political prisoners, and then she was made the occupant of a cell nine feet by five, and seven feet high. She did not leave that cell for two years. A mere incident, however, was that, in Katharine Breshkovsky's career. The first exile to Siberia was in 1878. In a springless wagon she traveled 5,000 miles to the Kara mines. That was a delightful place. One night eight men escaped. "For this we were all punished. Cossacks entered our cells, seized us, tore off our clothes, and dressed us in convict suits alive with vermin. Taken to an old prison, we were thrown into the 'black holes.' Each of us had a stall six feet by five feet. For three years we did not breathe the outside air. We struggled constantly against the outrages inflicted on us. After one outrage we lay like a row of dead women for nine days without touching food, until certain promises were finally exacted from the warder. The hunger strike was used repeatedly. To

thwart it we were often bound hand and foot while Cossacks tried to force food down our throats."

How did Katharine endure the life of an exile in the old days? It lasted nearly 20 years. In 1896, the government allowed her to return to home and freedom. And the woman, far from being broken in spirit, forthwith joined the social revolutionary party. No government can crush the spirit of a young woman who will suddenly ruin her own complexion for a great cause. Now began a series of great adventures in the propaganda which flowered in the revolution of 1905. For 10 years she labored, fighting Czarism to the death. At one time "she was living in the south as a French woman. Tracked down by the police at Kieff, where she was posing as a peasant woman, she escaped to the station in a carriage and pair dressed in the height of the fashion." She was resourceful and dangerous. She feared nothing. Two years ago, after her trip to America, where she made an immense impression upon all who saw her, she was arrested again. The trial has just ended. An indomitable woman! She will never be forgotten in Russian annals.

The most moving thing in her whole life—was it not, after all, that last scene in the St. Petersburg court this week? "Mme. Breshkovsky spoke briefly, mainly in an effort to clear Tschaikovsky." As for herself? Piff! She was nothing. Let the Czar do his worst.

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THE ROYAL ROAD IS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

A Very Ancient Chinese Song, Rendered into English by David Wilson. As Published in the London Nation.

The Royal Road is Righteousness.
It's straight, without unevenness:
And private love, and private hate,
It leaves aside, by going straight.
On every side it gives a view,
For ever clear, for ever true:
And broad and easy 'tis to know,
For him who has the heart to go.
The Royal Road shall never bend.
The Royal Road shall never end.

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HOW I TRIED TO GET ASSIMILATED.

Ng Poon Chew, Managing Editor of Chung Sai Yat Po, the Chinese Daily Paper of San Francisco, Writing, in the Los Angeles Fellowship of September, 1909.

The path of a Chinese who tries to get assimilated is like the proverbial path of true love; far from being straight and smooth, and strewn with thorns instead of roses.

Perhaps there is no clearer illustration of the foregoing statement than my personal experience. There was a time when American youths were

less civilized than they are today in their attitude toward the Chinese,—the stoning of an inoffensive Chinaman was regarded as legitimate pastime, and often indulged in and equally enjoyed by grown ups.

When I first came to America, I had on my native garb and my regulation queue, in common with other Chinese boys, and whenever I appeared on the streets of a city or town in this enlightened Christian land, the pride and hope of the Pilgrim Fathers, I became the very center of gravitation; for all sorts of missiles were flying toward me from all directions. And whenever a specially large rock made a square and solid impact on my head, it accelerated the thinking apparatus within.

I began to think seriously in order to find out the real cause of this phenomenon. I thought my queue and my sensible Oriental garb had much to do with it. So, in order to save my life, I resolved to part with my Chinese clothes and my queue.

In cutting the queue, I did not succeed in making a good job of it, so I went to an American barber shop to have my hair properly trimmed. The shop was crowded at the time so I sat down and patiently waited for my turn. When my turn finally came I jumped up and sat down on the barber chair; my heart was overflowing with joy in the expectation that my hair was to be cut in the accepted civilized style. I was doomed to disappointment, for the barber ordered me down from the chair and out of the shop, amid the laughter and jeers of those on the waiting list. I was filled with all sorts of unholy feeling. I even wished that I was able to demolish the whole shop.

Years after I wished to join the Y. M. C. A. in order to take up studies in the evening classes offered to members of the institution. It was my desire to mingle with the American people in order to facilitate my acquiring their language and customs. My application for membership was rejected, simply because I was born with yellow skin, under the shadow of the Dragon flag.

However, I was undaunted in eagerness to learn, so I applied for membership in a Chautauque Circle of a certain Presbyterian church, but I met with no better success.

Once I wanted to move my family away from the Chinese quarter in San Francisco to a residence district among the Americans so that I might bring up my children properly. I signally failed to rent a house, after four strenuous attempts.

Since all my children were born in this country, I wanted them to grow up worthy of their American citizenship, so I sent them to the public schools in San Francisco to study and mingle with the children of other nationalities; but no sooner had they entered than they were driven out by

order of the Board of Education. Children with white skin might enter, children with brown, red or black skin might also enter, but no children with yellow skin might enter therein.

After being driven out of San Francisco by the earthquake and fire, I wanted to settle down in a residence district in Oakland. I desired to rent, or buy a house. I failed, after repeated attempts, for it so happened that the owners either asked another price for the property from me than from an American, or themselves lived within a mile or two of the house I wanted to rent or buy, and they did not want a Chinese family to live so near to them.

I was so utterly discouraged that I had almost given up all hope of ever being able to live away from the business section of the city, when suddenly an idea came to me, which revived my drooping spirits and vanishing hope. I then said to myself, It may be all right to be as harmless as a dove, but in dealing with this generation, it is all wrong unless you be as wise as a serpent. So in making a last effort to secure a home for my family, I looked around and found a very suitable house which was one of three built side by side by the same man, all of which were for sale. I selected the middle one. I went to the agent and had papers drawn out, and I signed them. But instead of signing my name in full, I signed N. P. Chew, to the papers, which were duly presented to the owner for his signature. The owner looked the papers over, but did not see anything out of the ordinary; he could not recognize a Chinaman in N. P. Chew. So he signed the papers, and the property was transferred, a deed given and duly recorded.

Then at last, we went to see our home; I, a proud man, led the way; my wife followed me; my first child followed my wife; my second child followed my first child, and so on until my fifth child brought up the rear in the family procession.

When we arrived at our house, we were met by our neighbor, the former owner of our property. He was white-heat mad! He went to the agent and shook his fist at the agent's face and said, "Why didn't you tell me that he was a Chinaman?" and the agent replied, "Why didn't you ask whether he was a Chinaman?"

These were some of the obstacles placed in the way in my attempt to get assimilated. And I have lived in America continuously for more than a quarter of a century and yet the laws of this country prevent my becoming an American citizen.

We are prevented by law from becoming citizens of this country, and all sorts of difficulties meet us at every turn which keep us from becoming assimilated. And yet we are condemned for not becoming assimilated! It is just like breaking a fellow's legs and then kicking him for not running. "Consistency, thou art a jewel!"

CHINA'S REGENERATION IN THE LAST TEN YEARS.

Francis E. Clark, LL. D., writing to the Chicago Record-Herald from Canton, China, Under Date of December 26, 1909.

Ten years ago something happened in China. It was called the Boxer uprising. It was really the awakening of China. Through the Boxers' big swords and spears, all unconsciously to themselves, a way was made for liberty, just as truly as Arnold von Winkelried, when he gathered the enemy's spears into his bosom, made way for liberty in Switzerland.

To one who was in China in the spring of 1900 and is here again in the last days of 1909 the changes seem stupendous, almost unbelievable. It was my fortune to be in China just before the Boxer outbreak. Things were at their darkest and worst. Many saw the dreadful storm gathering, but they did not know when it would break, and they were powerless to avert it. Two weeks after my visit the storm did break, and for a time all was chaos and confusion worse confounded.

But out of the awful welter of blood and carnage have come comparative peace, freedom, hopefulness and an outlook on the future such as China never knew before. It took a moral cyclone to wake China up, but the cyclone did the business.

In May, 1900, I visited the soldiers' barracks in Chefoo, in the north of China, and there I actually saw Chinese soldiers of the regular army practicing horseback riding on wooden hobby horses a little bigger than an ordinary saw horse, while their only weapons were big spears, swords and bows and arrows, which were slung over their backs. One of these gentlemen politely posed for his picture, so that I have positive ocular proof of the state of much of the Chinese army in the spring of 1900. Now China has a regular army, well uniformed, well armed and much of it well drilled, a really formidable fighting force which other nations must reckon with if they ever go to carving up China among themselves.

The progress in other lines has been more remarkable than in military affairs. Take the city of Canton as an example. There is no more typically Chinese city in the empire than Canton—at least, this was true ten years ago. Then the clock of progress had scarcely struck one; now it is striking twelve. The police force has been reorganized and reuniformed. Their pay has been doubled, and instead of the tatterdemalions one used to see for guardians of the peace, a trim, well-officered force, in brown uniforms, guards the city.

The city is thoroughly drained, and the night soil is inoffensively carried off to enrich the surrounding farms instead of making Canton, as formerly, seventy times more malodorous than the seventy odors of Cologne. City aqueducts that provide pure water to 10,000 subscribers, in addition to many public hydrants, have been introduced. Electric lights blaze in many of the streets where formerly only the uncertain glimmer of paper lanterns lighted the traveler's feet.

Here, too, we find a great cement factory, a smokeless powder factory, a paper mill, a mint and a government arsenal. These are run very largely, some of them exclusively, by Chinamen.

Perhaps the greatest innovation which the traveler of today finds is the educational system. Ten years ago the great examination halls in the large cities, with their thousands of cells, dominated the intellectual life of China. Here students were immured for three days at examination time, then released for three days and then imprisoned in their cells for three days more, until they had passed their examinations in the Confucian classics and had written their little essay or poem in accordance with the strictest rules of Chinese belles-lettres. Only this, and nothing more; but success in this examination was the passport to civil service promotion or social advancement. Yet taking the examination was almost a hopeless task, for sometimes only 200 out of 12,000 aspirants passed, and men would go up year after year until they were 70 years old, only to be disappointed for perhaps the fortieth time.

Now the examination hall of Canton has been razed, only two of the 12,000 cells being preserved to show what once was there, and a new normal school building on western models has been erected on the site.

Quite as significant is the fact that the first Provincial Assembly of the Province of Canton met Nov. 15. This assembly consists of ninety-eight members, elected by voters who have a property qualification of \$5,000 in silver (\$2,500 in gold), or a degree. One thing already is to be put to the credit of this Assembly. It had not been in session a month before it came into conflict with the aristocratic viceroy, who formerly had exerted autocratic powers, and it abolished by one decree 1,000 gambling houses which he had licensed.

To recount these facts in cold print may not, perhaps, seem impressive, but they mean not merely progress, but a peaceful revolution; they mean that China has taken a longer forward step in the last ten years than in the previous ten thousand years; they mean nothing less than the industrial, political, and, let us hope, the spiritual regenera-

tion of nearly a third of the human race. Who will say that the world is not growing better, and that we do not live in heroic and stirring times!

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FAIRY DIAMONDS.

For The Public.

Silvery white against the blue, pale sky
The branches blaze; their showery plumes are set
With diamonds, like the woods in fairyland.
All clashing softly in the passing wind,
They sway and shift; sparkles of myriad light
Flash out and disappear.

FRANCES SHRIVER.

✦ ✦ ✦

SOME OF DOBBS'S THINKS,

As Remembered by Jackson Biggles.

For The Public.

Our janitor picked out the coldest night of the season as the proper time to dump the fire grate and let the steam go off duty. The heat in our flat was up to zero; the frost was on the windows, and the temper of all the members of the household was sultry. In this condition of things Dobbs came over to make remarks about the Administration and other things that were causing him trouble and worry. Although his sentences were carefully edited before being mailed to the paper they were of such a rugged and unflattering nature that the paper refused to print them.

Considering everything, this decision was probably right. Since the Pinchot committee began its sessions and the party mechanics started in to prepare materials for the whitewashing and decorating that part of the cabinet that needs cleaning, the papers have altogether too much to say about the shortcomings of the Administration. Housecleaning is rather a disagreeable subject at the best. It is enough to know it is going on without having to read about it every morning. It was later in the season when Dobbs came over again to say a few words about Rockefeller and his proposition to organize a Corporate Benevolent Society with a tax exemption attachment, under the protection of the Federal Government.

The temperature was hugging 65 degrees that night, and the janitor had all the steam on that was due us in January, so the recollections of Dobbs's ideas may be a little confused in parts, but in the main they convey the substance of what he thought he was thinking.

"Say, Biggles!" he began, as he leaned back against the radiator, "don't it beat you about that Rockefeller philanthropy trust that the Government is goin' to charter?"

"Not very bad," says I, not understanding the drift of the observation; "not very bad. Nothin' beats me nowadays but the landlord and the butcher. I'm fully prepared to see anything in-

corporated. The people will buy and sell anything that's got a nice picture and a seal on it."

"But this Rockefeller benevolence is to have no stock to sell," said Dobbs. "It's a purely charitable institution that is to have the endorsement of the Federal Government and be backed by the army and navy and all the militia from now on to the end of time. It will furnish a fund for the perpetuation of beggary as long as the world stands."

"Suppose it does," I inquired; "why have it incorporated?"

"Don't you see?" replied Dobbs; "some people think that the gathering of these great fortunes was done at the expense of the masses of the people, and by means of special privileges and unholy combinations that the law has not yet been able to control. Thinking this way they may some day get such a large majority of the people to think with them that they may attack the foundation of the great fortunes, and inaugurate laws that will in time distribute them in such a way that their power will be gone. What the makers of the great fortunes want is power. What they want again is to hold their power after they are dead and gone, so they are always scheming to perpetuate themselves after they are dead and buried. Some irreverent man has expressed the opinion that the world is pretty near governed by the dead hand now. The holders of the great estates think of these things and are always reaching out to make the fortunes secure. Rockefeller seeks to build a wall round his accumulations that will preserve it from all attacks as long as the government endures. It is to be incorporated with trustees and officers in such a way as to secure perpetual succession. The management of the corporation will be in the control of the trustees and officers. Such salaries will be paid as they decree, and such benefactions will be given as they deem wise. The estate will be exempt from taxes and with its present proportions I see no reason why it should not in time equal the government itself in wealth and power."

"So you do not give the Rockefeller any credit for benevolent feelings in this proposition?" I said, as Dobbs moved away from the radiator and removed his coat.

"Credit!" he exclaimed. "Certainly I do. I think his benevolence is just beginning to grow. He's like that fellow that held me up the other night and took all the change I had in my clothes. I remarked to him that it was awful cold and the walking was bad and it was tough to leave a fellow so far away from home without any car fare. He actually seemed to be sorry for me. I thought I saw a tear glistening in his eye and he gave me a dime of the change he had taken away from me, and walked away wiping his eyes. Yes! I think Rockefeller feels awful sorry for the folks that's

chipped in to make his big fortune, and so he's going to fix it so he'll be giving back a little of it as long as governments exist for the benefit of property and let the people look out for themselves."

"Dobbs!" I exclaimed as soon as I recovered from the shock of his radical remarks; "you shouldn't say such things. It's generally conceded that Rockefeller accumulated his wealth by hard work and persistent saving."

"Certainly he had the industry and did some of the saving, but does that account for the size of the pile? That burglar who went to jail the other night for breaking into my safe, worked night and day for three months fixing up his tools and watching for a good opportunity to blow it up. He got a dollar and twenty cents for his work. He saved up his day wages for three weeks before he tackled the job, to pay for dynamite and tools. If he had only got a law passed to make me keep all my money in the safe he might have made something. Of course the Rockefeller fortune was accumulated by hard work. You don't think for a minute that rebates and freight discriminations drop into our pockets without work? You don't think you are going to knock out your small competitor without work? You don't think you can work the people up to a pitch where they think a monopoly is what keeps the poor people from starving to death without work? Of course it took work to build up the great fortunes. It takes most as much work to fix things so you can make other people do the work as it does to do the work yourself, but after you get the work done and things fixed so other people do the manual labor part of it, you can take a day off now and then and hire some brains to represent you in courts and legislatures, and you can spend your time trying to persuade yourself that you are a benefactor of mankind."

"I take it by the tenor of your remarks that you do not approve of this Benevolent Foundation Fund," I ventured to say as Dobbs arose from his seat and prepared to go homeward.

"What if I don't?" said Dobbs. "My approval will make no difference to Rockefeller or the Congress that will perpetuate the beggary fund and cause the people that don't think to remark, 'What a great hearted and benevolent man that Rockefeller is; he's going to give away all his property to the poor people. What a good time they will have when the thing gets to working!' It's a good move to distract the thoughts of the people away from the real trouble, and perpetuate the monopolies. The only thing about it that puzzles me is that the monopolists really think they are a blessing to the people, and that the world cannot get along without them."

I think I would like Dobbs better if he would let me do some of the talking. I could knock the

underpinning from under some of his propositions if he would only give me a chance.

GEORGE V. WELLS.

BOOKS

ALEXANDER IRVINE'S LIFE STORY.

From the Bottom Up. The Life story of Alexander Irvine. Illustrated. New York. Doubleday, Page & Co. 1910. Price \$1.50 net.

"A live wire" could describe few men better than by his own account of himself this phrase fits Mr. Irvine. All the way from his impoverished boyhood in Ireland, through the British army and with a taste of the navy, on to the New York slums as a helping brother and up into the pulpit, his heart was leaping and his mind on the go.

He became a socialist, of course; one like Jack London, only that his socialism has God in it. A man who does little thinking in the abstract and much feeling in the concrete, he was as certain to become an idealistic socialist as London, with like temperament but a different personal experience, was to become a materialistic one. Thinking he sees "a great truth in the doctrine of the economic interpretation of history," he is sure he feels "a mighty truth in the spiritual interpretation of life."

Mr. Irvine's autobiographical method is candid, his style is racy, and out of it all we get what in the patter of the magazines would be called a genuine "human document." You may see a soul growing when he tells you how, after carefully preparing to preach as a pulpit candidate—

sermon time came and with it a wave of disgust that swept over my soul. "Good friends," I began; "I am not a candidate for the pastorate here. I was, a few minutes ago; but not now. Instead of doing the work of an infinite God and letting Him take care of the result, I have been trying to please you. If the Almighty will forgive me for such unfaith—such meanness—I swear that I will never do it again."

And then he preached—acceptably to God it may be, but the church didn't call him.

To illustrate "the seared, calloused, surfeited condition of the average mind in the churches," Mr. Irvine tells of a meeting of church officers at which the hell question in the creed was canvassed:

Not a man in the church believed in "everlasting damnation," but they voted unanimously to leave the hell-fire article just as they had found it. They had all subscribed to it, and it "hadn't hurt them." "Do you mean to tell me," I asked, "that none of you believe in eternal punishment, and yet you are going to force every man, woman and child who joins your church to solemnly swear before God that they do believe in it? There was a great silence. "Yes, that's exactly what's what," one man said.

The hell-fire article stayed in that creed but Mr. Irvine didn't stay long in that church.

Among Mr. Irvine's supporters in Connecticut was Bryan's friend, Philo S. Bennett, and Mr. Irvine gives this testimony regarding Mr. Bryan's relations (vol. viii, p. 379; vol. xi, p. 676), to Mr. Bennett's fortune, after Mr. Bennett had been killed in an accident:

Mrs. Bennett sent for me and I took charge of the funeral arrangements. Mr. Bryan came on at once and helped. After the funeral he read and discussed the will. I was present at several of these discussions. The sealed letter written by the dead man was the bone of contention. Then the lawyers came in and the case went into the courts. The world knew but a fragment of the truth. It looked to me at first as if a selfish motive actuated Mr. Bryan; but as I got at the details one after another, details the world can never know, I developed a profound respect for him. He was the only person involved that cared anything for the mind, will or intention of the dead man, and his entire legal battle was not that he should get what Mr. Bennett had willed him, but that the designs of his friend should not be frustrated: not merely with regard to the fifty thousand—he offered to distribute that—but with regard to the money for poor students.

Although Mr. Irvine regards his life story as only a catalogue of events, it is much more than that. It is what autobiography ought to be. There is no climbing up unto a high place and preaching down to the crowd, with one's own life story as a text. The writer lives his life over again, from milestone to milestone, and his readers live it with him—with him and not under him. That the events are facts instead of fiction is all that distinguishes this book from a good novel. The very chord which novelists endeavor to touch with the facts they invent, Mr. Irvine has touched with the facts of his own career.



PRISON REFORM.

Crime and Criminals. By the Prison Reform League Publishing Company, 443 South Main St., Los Angeles, Cal.

To the general reader the interest of this book has been lessened and its message minimized by burying the fourth chapter in the body of the book instead of making it the first. Everybody is interested in the experiences of a convict, and when the story is well told and fairly told, as it is here, the mere curious interest develops into wholesome sympathy and an appetite is created for all that the book has to offer. The experiences in question are told by Griffith J. Griffiths, secretary of the Prison Reform League, who served in San Quentin prison, California, a sentence for two years on conviction of assault with a deadly weapon, an act which he insists was accidental and not criminal. His account of his own ex-

periences, his observations while in prison, the experiences of others which are included in the book, make an effective background for the humane movement he has undertaken.

We think we merely punish men and women for crime, or put them where they cannot commit crime, when we lock them up. What we really do is to put them out of sight, out of sound, into the hands of irresponsible keepers. The criminal instinct which our prisons foster, the bestiality they promote, the inhumanities they conceal, call for a complete overhauling of our penal methods. It is hardly to be hoped that society will go so far in reforming itself as to be as fair to the individual as it requires the individual without a pull to be to it, but a stride in that direction may be possible. We may at least treat the social derelicts we make with a much greater degree of humanity. If any one doubts the necessity for it or the wisdom of it, let him read this book.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—**Mental and Spiritual Health.** By A. T. Schofield. Published by R. F. Fenno Co., 18 E. 17th St., New York.

—**Wages and the Price of Land.** Published by Henry Rawie, Harrison Bldg., Columbus, O. 1910. Price 25 cents.

—**A Valid Christianity for To-day.** By Charles D. Williams, Bishop of Michigan. Published by The Macmillan Co., New York. 1909.

—**Songs of the Army of the Night.** By Francis Adams. Published by A. C. Fifield, 13 Clifford's Inn, E. C., London. 1910. Price, paper 1s., cloth 2s., net.

—**Annual Report of the Director of the Mint.** For the Year Ended June 30, 1909. Published at the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1909.

—**Psychic Control Through Self-Knowledge.** By Walter Winston Kenilworth. Published by R. F. Fenno Co., 18 E. 17th St., New York. 1910. Price \$2.00 net.

—**Studies in the Gospel of the Kingdom.** Series No. 1. By Josiah Strong. Published by The American Institute of Social Service, Bible House, Astor Pl., New York. 1910.

—**The Martyrdom of Ferrer.** By Joseph McCabe. Issued for The Rationalist Press Association. Published by Watts & Co., 17 Johnson's Court, Fleet St., E. C., London. 1909.

—**Socialism and Superior Brains.** By Bernard Shaw. The Fabian Socialist Series, No. 8. Published by A. C. Fifield, 13 Clifford's Inn., E. C., London. 1910. Price, paper, 6d. net.

—**The Moral Equivalent of War.** By William James. Published by the American Association for International Conciliation. Sub-station 84 (501 W. 116th St.) New York. February, 1910.

—**Twenty-third Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labor.** 1908. Workmen's Insurance and Benefit

Funds in the United States. Published at the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1909.

PAMPHLETS

Hubbard on Standard Oil Monopoly.

In his defense of the typical American trust, Elbert Hubbard performs one of those literary "stunts" which, like the "Message to Garcia," once so much esteemed in the director's rooms of railroad corporations, he sometimes favors great monopolies with. As with the Garcia message, the plan consists in making a loose generalization, assuming that the particular instance is within it, and then drawing a favorable conclusion for the particular instance. Thus: Organization is desirable; the Standard Oil Company is an organization; therefore the Standard Oil Company is desirable. Or, for illustration: Men are indispensable: Mr. Hubbard is a man; therefore Mr. Hubbard is indispensable. As with most of Mr. Hubbard's writings there is in this one a cryptic factor. We quote it for what it may mean or be worth: "I rode on passes because I pushed what you call a 'virile pen'—and admitted it. Reduced to simple terms, it was this: I wrote so well that I molded public opinion, and thus had the power to injure the railroads. Therefore I was retained, as it were, by these base monopolies, and supplied transportation. We called it 'the courtesies of the road.'"

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Yet, great heavens! What an insurgent Uncle Joe would have made!—Detroit News.

Yes, indeed; but isn't "great heavens" an egregiously inappropriate exclamation to use in this case?—Chicago Tribune?

PERIODICALS

"Modern Ideas on Food," by Burton J. Hendrick in McClure's (New York), for April, is an interesting and clear essay on the latest discoveries of science regarding food, in which the ideas of Fletcher figure favorably.

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Wherever in the world Hull House has been heard of, the opening article in the American Magazine for April (New York), will be welcome. It is the first installment by Jane Addams, the founder of Hull House, of a series of autobiographical notes.

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The Current Events Index (published quarterly by the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, Madison) at \$2 per annum, but free to Wisconsin high schools and libraries) offers in its fourth issue for 1909, an index to newspapers for the entire year, together with a bibliography for the year on social subjects—the latter prepared by W. D. P. Bliss.

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Wages and Cost of Living in the London district of England have just been investigated by Special Agent Henry Studniczka (U. S. Consular Reports for March 19, Bureau of Manufactures, Washington). The wage-scale figures were gotten from the secretaries of the labor organizations, and the cost of living tables are the result of personal store-to-store and house-to-house inquiry.

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The supposition of some people is that politics is dirty, the home clean, and that business and the home have nothing to do with politics. This attitude

From the Week's Correspondence.

Keenedge Company

Sharpeners of Safety Razor Blades by
Keenedge Process

KEENEDEGE BUILDING
1331 North Clark Street

Telephone Dearborn 57

CHICAGO, MARCH 26, 1910

THE PUBLIC,
Chicago.

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pointments of social life are to the functions of the policemen, we do not grasp the meaning of civilization. When we get this vision, we see that the women, who are making three-fourths of the constructive, progressive contributions to the larger life, are indispensable in politics.—Charles Zueblin, as reported in the press of February 2.

✦ ✦ ✦

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The Boston Herald Describes

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But the standard of honesty was chivalrously high among those boys, and I believe that if ever we have that equality in this world which so many good men have hoped for, theft will be unknown. Dishonesty was rare even among the men in the Boys' Town, because there was neither wealth nor poverty there,

and all had enough and few too much.—W. D. Howells in "A Boys' Town."



A genial Joshua, who runs a chicken plantation and cornstalk refinery down in the Salem county section of Jersey, came to this city the other day to buy a pair of winter boots and a box of axle grease. After rambling around in the ferry zone for awhile he bravely cut loose and started up Market street. He had not proceeded far when he saw an employe

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of the Philadelphia Electric company lift the lid of a manhole and crawl down into a conduit chamber. Evidently the sight filled Joshua with much thought, for he gazed earnestly toward the manhole for a minute or two and then went over to a cop who was holding fast to a sunny spot on the corner.

"Excuse me, constable," said Joshua, addressing the police person, "but hain't they got a railroad down in the ground under this street?"

"They certainly have," indulgently answered the

officer. "It is the subway of the Rapid Transit Company."

"That's what they told me," responded the farmer, with another glance toward the center of the street, "but I hain't never seen it. Howsomever, I jes' seen a feller crawlin' down ter ketch a train, an' sez I to meself, them holes may be all right for ther men passengers, but they must be mighty derned unconvenient for ther women folks."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

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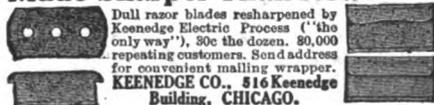
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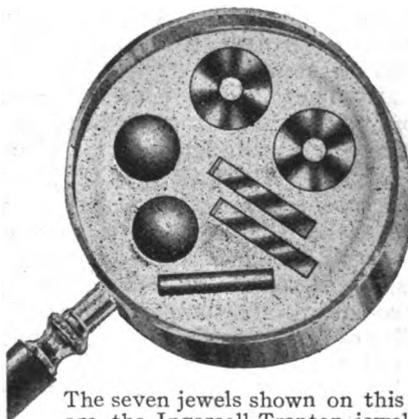


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