

The Public

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

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EDITORIAL

The Governorship of Ohio.

Garfield's nomination by the Republican convention of Ohio would have simplified the Ohio situation (pp. 673, 683); but as matters stand, wiser than the fabled crow must that man be who can give any good reason why an insurgent Republican or a democratic Democrat should bother to vote for the head of either ticket. Neither candidate for Governor is identified with any progressive political principle, both are seekers of office for the sake of office, and each is harnessed to a boss who would not dare to challenge public condemnation by himself becoming a candidate for anything.

† †

The Joy of the Manhunt.

No sport of the chase has ever been so alluring to the Caucasian temperament as the man hunt. Compared with this, the chasing of a fox with a pack of hounds has been as nursery play, and the killing of African lions with modern weapons a mere holiday diversion for Tartarins of Tarascon. But game for the man hunt is growing scarce. Time was when the Christian sect supplied it in plenty. After centuries the supply was reduced to traitors, Quakers and criminals, with now and then a witch to burn. In our own time and country there were "runaway niggers" to chase. But the game is now almost limited to criminals. Outside the circles of professional thief-catchers, those

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pot-hunters for whom there is always a quarry where Privilege and Poverty consort, the manhunt as a sport is nearly obsolete.

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For one thing there is lack of game for it; for another, the kind of game to which the manhunt is limited makes it little better than mollycoddle for the development of manly qualities in the hunters. As a sport, there is much the same difference between the manhunt now and in the days when human game was plentiful and varied, that came to trap shooting after glass balls were substituted for live pigeons—a difference vastly greater in degree, to be sure, but very like in kind. The thrill of joy in the manhunt does seem to be dying down. Newspapers that follow the old traditions try indeed to make much of the manhunt when one comes off, but not with the best success. Provincials of New York and London (those most provincial spots on the face of the globe) appear to share in the newspaper excitement, for many "extras" are sold. And so, we presume, do the yokels of the countryside. But even they, city provincial and rural yokel, do not raise "the hue and cry" as everybody used to. Isn't this indifference to the age-long sport to be observed in the international manhunt which has just ended in the capture of a man and a woman by a detective from Scotland Yard?

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Those two persons, charged with murder and one of them evidently saturated with guilt unless he is a prize fool, disappear as completely as if they had fallen into some fourth dimension of space, and are picked up by wireless telegraphy like iron particles from a bed of sand by a magnet. It was the first use of this invention for the manhunt, and the whole world looked on with keen interest. But nearly all the interest centered upon the dramatics of the "wireless" novelty. There were few indications of joy in the sport. It seems so to us, at any rate; and we hope we are right. For the worst of it regarding the manhunt is not the suffering endured by a hunted man, which may be well enough deserved; the worst is that moral degeneracy of the hunters which is always indicated and often promoted by the joy they experience in the hunt.

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"Barbarous Mexico."

The testimony of Dorothy Johns in the *American Magazine* for August, in confirmation of Turner's articles on "Barbarous Mexico" (p. 579),

indicts several men who denounced that magazine for "slandering" President Diaz, with lying when they did so. They had themselves told her of the barbarous regime of the Mexican President. "I have heard the existence of slavery in the Republic casually discussed by Mexicans in all walks of life," says this writer. "Members of the priesthood, the professions, the press and many others," she adds, "spoke of it with approval or deploring it"; and "two of the signers of that letter of protest against your articles," she continues, referring to the "Barbarous Mexico" articles in the *American*, "have in my presence admitted the fact."

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One part of the testimony of this witness is of exceptional value with reference to the action of the United States government in extradition proceedings against Mexican revolutionists accused of organizing armed revolt on American soil against the Diaz government. "The Constitution of the Republic of Mexico," she states, "gives the people of Mexico the right of armed revolt against any President who seeks re-election after serving one term." Since Diaz has re-elected himself term after term for thirty years, can it be said that armed expeditions against him, organized on American soil, are in violation of neutrality? Are we at peace with Mexico, or only with an individual Mexican "president" whom the Constitution of Mexico disqualifies for that office?

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Bryan's Latest Killing Off.

All who may think that William J. Bryan's influence in American politics has been killed again—this time by his own party and in his home State—had better hold their jubilating energy in reserve until the election returns come in from Nebraska. If they have reason to use this energy then, they may possibly use it to some purpose; if they have no use for it then, they may be glad that they did not rejoice over a welcome political death followed so speedily by an exasperating political resurrection.

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The truth appears to be that it is not so much a defeat for Bryan in his own party in Nebraska that has taken place, as a victory in that party for the whiskey ring—a "coals to Newcastle" matter, as many may say—which Bryan faithfully but unsuccessfully opposed. The inevitable effect of this "Bryan defeat," as he warned the convention that it would be, is to make the "county option"

liquor question an "issue," and not only an issue but *the* issue, in Nebraska politics this fall. For both the Republicans and the Populists of Nebraska have pledged themselves to county option, which the whiskey ring aggressively—and, as Bryan says and there is reason to believe, corruptly opposes. Others also oppose it, and genuinely, upon libertarian grounds; but the opposition of the whiskey ring is overshadowing. Bryan advised his party convention to make the same pledge the other parties had made, thereby taking this question out of the campaign, and letting it turn upon the initiative and referendum as a local and the tariff as a national issue. By refusing to do so—and this is the sum and substance of "Bryan's defeat"—the Democratic party of Nebraska has put itself in the position, in popular perspective in Nebraska, of the whiskey ring's sole political champion in that State. The popular tendency therefore will be to regard the whiskey ring as beaten if the Democratic party loses, and triumphant if the Democratic party wins.

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Of the merits of the county option question in Nebraska, we say nothing here. The merits of that question are not involved in the cry that Bryan has been defeated in his own party; and, regarded simply as a question of political influence, we do not see how the action of the convention on county option tells against Bryan. An act by a convention of his party which, in the public mind, identifies the party with the whiskey ring, whether the party wins the election or loses it, and which Bryan did his utmost to prevent, looks to us more like a defeat of the present managers of his party in Nebraska than of Bryan.

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We might add that we have yet to see or hear of any characterization of the matter as a defeat for Bryan which comes from any other source, all along the line from Watterson to Hearst, than where Bryan's defeat is perennially regarded both as a foregone conclusion and a foregone desire, and more of a desire than of a conclusion.

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Which? and What of It?

Mr. Roosevelt is reported from New York as having proffered George Harvey, of the Harper publications, a membership in the Ananias Club. Col. Harvey had written and published the statement that "recently Roosevelt, the man, declared that if a national election were to be held next November he undoubtedly would be the Republican

candidate and would win. His personal desires would be negligible. Circumstances and conditions would dominate the situation and his would be the role of a Son of Destiny." Mr. Roosevelt, upon having his notice called to the statement, said: "That is a simple falsehood; I never said anything of the kind." Whereupon Col. Harvey, declining the proffered membership, delicately suggests that Mr. Roosevelt fill the vacancy. "It may be unseemly," he retorts, "for me to engage with Mr. Roosevelt in a controversy involving a question of veracity; but that which I wrote is true."

+ *

Self-Government.

The Outlook's repudiation of that part of the Declaration of Independence which asserts, as a fundamental principle of Americanism, that government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed (pp. 577, 601), is supported by the Congregationalist and Christian World of July 16, which pronounces that clause of the Declaration absurd. Church organs are pretty dependable as supporters of the "going thing," especially if the "going thing" be class bound. The spirit of domination, a very antithesis of the Christian spirit, has no stronger grip than in Christian churches.

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If there were anything to be said for these pious attacks upon the Declaration of Independence, one could be quite considerate. But there is nothing. As no one ever argues for unequal rights, with himself on the lower side of the dividing line, so no one ever argues for government from above, with himself below—except as a graduated class system in which he concedes somebody's right to domineer over him so as to assert his right to domineer in turn over others.

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There is good reason, too, for attempting no rational defense of unequal rights or superimposed power, as principles of human association. Simply as statements of principle, they are abhorrent; and as modes of social development they never have worked and there is no ground for believing that they ever will. The Congregationalist and Christian World, for illustration, intimates in its issue of July 16, what enemies of this Christian and American principle usually assert, that self-government of "backward" peoples should be delayed until "they are ready for it." We may ignore one thing which is historically true of this argument—that it serves as an excuse of the

“forward” for plundering the “backward”—in order to come directly to the point, also historically true, which is that no superimposed government which once postpones the grant of self-government ever confers it voluntarily. If you admit the soundness of postponing it until the people are ready for it, you cannot deny the soundness of making the postponement perpetual. For there is only one way given under heaven whereby any people can learn self-government, and that is by practicing self-government.

* *

The Lawless Police Sweatbox.

It is refreshing to those of us who have protested against the unlawful police sweatbox (p. 587), to read in a Chicago Record-Herald's dispatch from Quebec regarding the arrest by a Scotland Yard detective of Dr. Crippen and Miss Leneve, the statement with special reference to the latter that—

no attempt has been made by the officials to obtain a statement from her in addition to the formal questions asked at her examination to-day; the intimidation of suspected persons is abhorrent to the British notion of justice, and if Miss Leneve makes any statement it will be of her own volition.

This is in accordance with the law—the law in the United States as well as in Great Britain and Canada. Its violation in Great Britain would menace a ministry; but in this country, detectives too lazy or too incompetent for intelligent detective work, defy it by making short cuts to criminal convictions through extorted confessions from suspects. Being extorted—through fear, hope, hypnotism, physical violence, or all four—these confessions are as likely to be false as true. More likely, it may be. But all this is no affair of your lazy or incompetent law-breaking American detective. What he is after is not justice; it is verdicts of guilty, regardless of justice.

* *

H. Martin Williams.

One of the candidates for the Democratic nomination for the lower house of the legislature of Illinois in the 46th senatorial district, is H. Martin Williams, of Woodlawn, Jefferson county. No matter who loses in that district, Williams ought to win both at the primary and at the election. Personally he is an excellent man, which is good; but it is for better than personal reasons that his nomination and election are to be desired. He has an extended experience and acute understanding of legislative work, which also is good; but it is not this in addition to his personal qualities that

makes it desirable that he be nominated and elected. Besides having personal character and legislative experience, Mr. Williams is a fundamental democrat in all that those words imply; and has been so, through thick and thin, in sunshine and shadow, for more than thirty years. When he explains his present candidacy as springing from his hope to “accomplish something in the interest of the men and women of Illinois who produce the wealth and bear the burdens of government,” he knows what that means, and he means it, too. It is not a platitude. He stands for the initiative, the referendum and the recall, and these are not novelties with him. He is for the election of U. S. Senators directly by the people, for a corrupt practices act, for the merit system of public service, for the heavy ad valorem taxation of valuable lands held for speculative purposes, and for all, in absolute sincerity. Mr. Williams is a pleasing speaker, rugged and powerful, and in the legislature of Illinois would be an effective fighting member for the right side. Of course he is opposed by the Interests and by the kind of Democrats that keep in touch with the Interests.

* *

The English League For Land Values Taxation.

This League, which was active in the Budget fight (p. 417) and has just passed its twenty-seventh birthday, made an interesting report of its last year's work down to June 30, in anticipation of the annual meeting in July. E. G. Hemmerde, K. C., M. P., Recorder of Liverpool, who succeeded Josiah C. Wedgwood, M. P., as president a year ago, was succeeded this year by Henry George Chancellor, M. P., with whom as vice presidents are George N. Barnes, M. P. (Parliamentary leader of the Labor parties), W. P. Byles, M. P., the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam (of the London County Council), F. G. Hindle, M. P., John Paul, Wilson Raffan, M. P., C. P. Trevelyan, M. P., C. H. Smithson (of the Halifax Town Council), Thomas F. Walker of Birmingham, L. W. Zimmerman, J. P., of Manchester, R. L. Outhwaite, Ignatius Singer and Franklin Thomason. Lewis H. Berens as treasurer and Frederick H. Verinder as secretary, manage the executive work. Following a survey of the past year, the report makes this statement of policy with reference to the Lloyd George Budget: “The valuation is already in progress. We must urge the Government to complete it as quickly as possible, and to make the results public. Then comes the question of the use to which the valuation, when completed, is to be put. No real advance can be made

till the national valuation is available: for no possible increase of such taxes as the 'land values duties,' imposed for valuation purposes in the 1909-10 Budget, will bring us any nearer a true taxation of land values. The representatives of all the Leagues that form the United Committee (pp. 629, 660, 702) are now considering the details of a practical programme for the immediate future."

* * *

A SUGGESTION FOR DENVER, OF GENERAL APPLICATION.

I.

Denver is to have a water plant for her "very own," as the children say.

If the election of May 17th did not prove this, the demonstrated inability of the present water company to forestall and provide for the needs of a great city would make it certain. Year after year the citizens of Denver have tolerated shortages, restrictions, and high prices, with remarkable patience; but the latest "drouth," pushed into the most damaging season of the year, has brought to mind all that we have endured in times past, and showed even to some conservatives who thought the time for city ownership was not yet, that prompt action on the part of the municipality is the only remedy for an intolerable condition.

Therefore, I do not intend to use any argument to show the advantage of or the necessity for public ownership. But there is one point to be considered without which consideration the question can not be intelligently and economically settled at the September election.

*

"A million dollars" can be said in a breath; but suppose you try to *think* it. The average mind does not think in millions. Units, tens, hundreds, even thousands, may be comprehended, but going farther than that a sort of confusing nebulus seems to envelope all but exceptional minds. Especially is this true when it comes to dollars.

Let us reduce the amount to something more tangible than dollars, say houses or days' work.

How much is \$1,000,000? How many cottages at \$2,500 each would it pay for? How many days' work at \$2 per day does \$1,000,000 represent?—that is, how many days, how many years, must a man work at \$2 per day to earn \$1,000,000, counting 300 working days to the year?

At that rate how much, how many days', how many years' work, would the Denver Union Water Company's plant cost at \$7,000,000?

Estimating its population at 200,000 (for convenience), how many days' work would that be for every man, woman and child in Denver?

How much would be the interest on \$1,000,000 for one year at 4 per cent? On \$7,000,000?

How much for 30 years?

These are some of the questions that the citizens of Denver must answer before they can intelligently vote on the question of water bonds.* Incidentally the answers will help to show how much of the value of the D. U. Water Co.'s plant is made of days' work and how much of other things—"reasonable return for money invested," etc.

II.

Lest you can not spare the time to figure out the answers to the questions in the first part of this writing, I have for myself learned that \$1,000,000 would pay for 400 houses at \$2,500 each, and that \$7,000,000 would therefore pay for 2,800 houses at that price—enough for quite a respectable little city.

Now let us see what \$1,000,000 represents in days' work at \$2 per day. To earn \$1,000,000 a man must work 500,000 days. Counting 300 working days to the year he must work 1,666 years and 200 days.

Therefore, \$7,000,000 represents 11,666 years—not days but years—of work at two dollars a day. *Eleven thousand six hundred and sixty-six years* is a long, long time; yet that length of time in days' work at \$2 a day is the least we are asked to consider for Denver water bonds.

*

The interest on \$7,000,000 for one year at 4 per cent would be \$280,000, and for 30 years, the time I have heard proposed, it would be \$8,400,000—more than the original cost of the plant.

And that interest does not pay one cent of the cost. The debt still remains \$7,000,000 as at the beginning. Is that the best possible way for Denver to acquire a water system?

I do not like to be in bondage to a water company, but it is hardly worse than being a servant to bond-holders.

*

The foregoing is preliminary to a protest against acquiring a water plant by the usual method—the issue of long-time interest-bearing bonds of large denominations to outside parties.

Instead of this, can we not have a "popular loan"?—one in which at least every tax-payer

*The election in Denver comes off on the 6th of September.—Editors of The Public.

could take shares? May not a portion, if not all of the bonds, be in small denominations—say \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100—and a specified number redeemable each year after the water system is established and self-supporting?

III.

While thinking over this matter I found in an old scrap-book of mine, an article entitled "The Guernsey Market; or Money and Its Uses." The only indication as to the writer is the modest initials "B. O. E." He seems to have been a New Yorker, for he alludes to "the old rookeries called Washington and Fulton markets in this city," and shows how by following the Guernsey plan they might be replaced with splendid and useful buildings, and without bonds to bind the people under a burden of endless taxes.

In trying to verify this account at our Public Library I was much impressed by the fact that invariably this statement was in every account of Guernsey that I found: "*Taxes are very light.*"

Reading the following one can readily believe it. Such sagacity on the part of those who attended to the people's business would inevitably result in light taxation:

The Island of Guernsey, being in the channel between France and England, by some blunder in the treaty transferring several islands in that channel from the former to the latter government, had been left free from the control of either and remained in the hands of the local island government. This government consisted of a mayor and council. John Guelph was at that time mayor and a true friend of the people according to the best of his ability. The people were in great need of a public market building, but were destitute of money with which to build. Mayor Guelph called the council together for consultation on the matter. Each in his place declared that timber, lumber, stone, brick, with good strong arms and willing hands were plenty, but no money to effect purchases or pay for labor. All agreed that it would be unwise to borrow money at interest.

The estimated cost of the market was 4,000 pounds sterling. It was decided to create and issue as wanted for the purpose four thousand one-pound notes. These notes were made a legal tender for rent of stalls when the market was complete. The credit of the island government was good for the fulfillment of that pledge, and the contractor at once proceeded with his work, receiving the one-pound notes in payment. With these he paid for material, timber, stone, brick, etc., and wages of the men employed. Those receiving the notes in turn paid them to the shop-keepers for goods. The shop-keepers gave them to the landlords for rent, and they again distributed them in society. In this manner they were kept constantly passing from hand to hand and place to place over the island, performing the functions of money as well or even better than if made of gold or silver, and yet costing but a trifle in comparison with these metals. During this period,

business was brisk, labor more generally employed, and the people more prosperous than before.

In due season the market was completed. It contained eighty shops and stalls, which were let to butchers and dealers at five pounds a year. This made the annual rent 400 pounds sterling, or \$2,000.

At the close of the first year of tenancy, four hundred of the one-pound notes with which the market had been built, had been received by the island authorities that owned the market. It was a national building, built with national money. When this money was thus received, it was burnt up in the presence of the official authorities and the people.

The operation was repeated from year to year for ten years, at the expiration of which period all the four thousand one-pound notes having been received and thus destroyed, they of course ceased to exist.

But the annual rent did not cease; that exists to this day and the money is applied to local improvements and government expenses.

The ready thoughts of the reader will apply the principle to various plans and purposes in his own vicinity, and again to State and Nation.

Is not this a complete demonstration of "the use of money"? To apply the principle requires only a fair degree of common sense and honest purpose.

For the facts of this article, we are indebted to Jonathan Duncan, an English historian and writer on finance.

IV.

Of course there are details in the Guernsey Market plan which could not be fitted to the case in hand, but there is a principle exemplified, working in accordance with which the city of Denver can save to itself millions of dollars.

I am well aware that there is a Money Trust which, through its institutions in every sizable town throughout the country, is jealously watching any attempt on the part of the people to serve themselves in money matters. Naturally those who make a living by trading in money will, as far as possible, control its output in any form!

I am therefore also aware that the proposed issue could not be, even locally, "a legal tender" like greenbacks; perhaps not even "receivable" as are the National Bank notes—which practically makes them a legal tender. Nevertheless, I believe those of the smaller denominations would pass freely from hand to hand in Denver's daily business transactions, thereby greatly facilitating exchanges.*

Doubtless those who make a living by negotiating large bond issues to run for a long time would place all possible obstacles in the way of any city

*This plan is said to have been used successfully by the Fairhope colony, Alabama, for building a wharf. Also by St. Joseph, Mo., for some local purpose. Regarding its use we are advised that there is some obscure Act of Congress which might open the way for interference in so far as the bonds were intended to circulate as currency.—Editors of The Public,

which should try to serve itself in this simple and inexpensive manner. But what of that? Are we under any obligation to continue them in business?

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I am told that in addition to the other obstructions is the fact that "not many people in Denver can spare even \$5 as an investment, to say nothing of the larger denominations that would be needed;" also that "to issue a portion of the bonds in small denominations to the citizens of Denver might make it more difficult to market the remainder."

As to the former objection: We can never tell till we try. I should be sorry to believe that "only a few people in Denver" could afford to pay two or three years in advance for their water supply if they were convinced that such a course would save a great burden of taxation to themselves and their children for years to come.

And for the second: Are there not enough Denver men of wealth and public spirit to take up in large sums what the "common people" find themselves unable to assume? I believe there are. If the tax-payers are getting something back in interest for what they pay in taxes it will lighten the burden of taxation to that extent.

Just here Mr. Conservative comes along and remarks, "You can't get rich by taking money out of one pocket and putting it into another." Sure. But you'll come nearer to it that way than by taking money out of both pockets and handing it over to New Yorkers year after year.

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I submit, without fear of any intelligent contradiction on the matter, that to keep the annual interest (which seems to be inevitable for a few years) right at home would be of immense advantage to merchants and to all local business men, except possibly the money-loaners; and if a specified portion of the bonds should be made redeemable by being received for water rates each year, thus (as soon as the plant becomes self-supporting) lessening the interest by that amount, we could, before many years, have a water plant all paid for without incurring any very heavy burden.

Is not such a result worth working for?

CELIA BALDWIN WHITEHEAD.

+ + +

The dead are below, and the landless, and those who live to labor

And grind forever in gloom, that the privileged few may live.—John Boyle O'Reilly.

"ONE MORE SOLDIER FOR POR-FIRIO!"

William James, though a pacifist, nevertheless concedes the military type of character to be persistently desirable.

He believes, however, that the character elements in the martial type can be as effectually cultivated in constructive social service as in war.

You cannot answer the militarist by citing the horrors of war: they are its enticing thrill! The cost of war? A bagatelle! Its bestialities? It's all in the price of the higher, hardier manhood of the race. So argues the militarist.

But Mr. James thinks that "patriotic pride and ambition in their military form are, after all, only specifications of a more general competitive passion."

This "competitive passion" will find ample room for exercise even where the military "specification" is absent.

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And why not?

Russia built a railroad for military purposes—and, to her surprise, the territory traversed by it has become a vast theater of teeming industry, supporting in comparative affluence millions of human beings. The rulers of Russia intended the railroad for the conquest of a state; but economic law seized upon it for the uplifting of the Russian people!

If it be answered that the military spirit was father to that railroad, and therefore the cause of the people's prosperity, let the retort be that militarism, as the rule, greatly burdens and oppresses the people, and that in this instance the benefits were purely accidental. It demonstrates not that *war* but that *railroads* are beneficial to society.

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Does war indeed ennoble manhood?

Where are the descendants of Alexander? "Alexander's career was piracy, pure and simple; nothing but an orgy of power and plunder. When he died his generals and governors attacked one another."

The whole history of war for war's sake is an orgy of power and plunder; and that for the glory, not of the people of either side, but solely for a few distinguished individuals.

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Napoleon would respectfully bow to the pregnant woman wherever he met her, not from respect for motherhood, but to encourage the

French women to rear men to die for his personal glory.

Dorothy Johns, writing in the American Magazine for August, under the caption of "Barbarous Mexico," relates that she saw a poor woman on the street, bearing a heavy burden, fall, and roll into the gutter, where she gave birth to a child. A policeman had thought her drunk. But "when he became aware of the woman's condition he leaned over and with his middle finger deliberately thumped that expectant mother in the side, as one tests a ripening melon, and with a knowing leer hailed another policeman just then crossing the street, with, "Say, mate! (Oyez, Compadre!) It's all ripe, ready to pull; another soldier for Porfirio!"

Napoleon was more polite to motherhood, but his appreciation thereof was no higher than that of the brutal Mexican policeman.

Were the French mothers proud to bear men-children for Napoleon's wars? So also were the mothers of India proud to cast their children under another Juggernaut.

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When Frederick the Great spurred his soldiers to valor by shouting "Dogs, would you live forever?" it doubtless had the desired effect upon the "dogs." But it also revealed the true status of the common soldier in the estimation of the "hero" (God save the mark!) for whose individual glory the common soldier is to die.

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War is but an incidental phase of the evolution of the human race in its progress to the goal of universal peace.

The hazards of constructive industry today demand a courage as great as the soldier's; and the noblest achievement possible to the individual is to diminish those hazards.

The elements that make for unselfish, patriotic, heroic manhood are all—every one of them—multitudinous in the common life of the people.

The voice of militarism is but the "call of the wild," a beckoning back to the low, savage levels of the outgrown past, up from which the nations have struggled through blood, rapine, famine and pestilence!

Have we gained the glorious uplands of peace? God help us to go forward!

EDWARD HOWARD PUTNAM.

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I will smite the winter house with the summer house; and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall have an end.—Amos, iii:15.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE ISSUE IN NEW MEXICO.

Albuquerque, N. M., July 25.

New Mexico is now in the heat of a struggle for popular government as against government by the special interests.

With the passage of the enabling act for the formation of a State government at the close of the last session of Congress came the proclamation of the Governor for the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention; and it is over this election, which will be held on September 6, that both political parties are now engaged in the warfare for ascendancy.

Whether the new State shall adopt a conservative, "safe and sane" Constitution, as urged by President Taft, or a Constitution embodying vital safeguards for the people and direct legislation, is the question at issue.

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The Democrats have taken advanced ground on the question of the Constitution. They insist that it shall embody direct legislation through the Initiative and Referendum; election of Senators by vote of the people; the direct primary; publication of campaign contributions; the establishment of a State corporation commission elected by the people, with power to regulate railroads and public service corporations; and other minor features.

The Democrats have come out through their central committee with a clear declaration of principles. Their platform is not voluminous, but is vital from the standpoint of securing popular government.

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In the fight of the Democracy the influence of John Z. White's recent visit to the Territory has played a prominent part. Mr. White spoke before a number of bodies in Albuquerque on "Direct Legislation," and the tremendous sentiment for popular government among the Democrats and progressive Republicans is due more to the seed thus sown than to any other one thing.

The Democratic central committee has placed orders for 5,000 copies of Mr. White's essay on "Direct Legislation," which first appeared in *The Public*, for general distribution. Other copies will be ordered later. *The Tribune Citizen*, the organ of the Democratic party in New Mexico, has been running Mr. White's essay as a standing advertisement. Five thousand copies are being translated into Spanish for circulation among the native people. In addition to this, as campaign material, the Democrats are circulating several thousand copies of Senator Bourne's speech on direct legislation in Oregon.

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The Republicans have made no declaration of principles. Although the Democratic central committee at its recent meetings in Albuquerque proposed a non-partisan Constitutional Convention, the Republicans

refused to entertain the plan, and the Democrats have taken up the challenge for an open fight on principles. The Republicans refused to declare for anything specific in the Constitution, on the ground that it was a matter for the various counties alone to decide. It is generally realized, however, that the Republican caucus will control the action of the delegates from all the counties, notwithstanding their pledges, on the ground of party solidarity.

Beyond the assertion that they desire a "safe, sane, sound and fundamentally simple" Constitution, the Republican party has given the people no promise of a Constitution not written by the railroads and other special interests.

Thomas B. Catron, who is regarded as the Republican leader and who is a candidate for the Senatorship, has expressed himself on a Constitution embodying the Initiative and Referendum by saying: "No hybrid nondescript Constitution for me."

W. H. Andrews, formerly of Pennsylvania, the other Republican candidate for the Senate, has remained silent, but his position is too well known to need a declaration.

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Indications at this time are that the Democrats will be able to secure the Initiative and Referendum. They intend to center their fight on these provisions and are convinced that if these are incorporated into the Constitution, that document will need little more to make it a people's Constitution.

There will be 100 delegates to the convention. These, under the provisions of the enabling act as written by Beveridge, have been apportioned to the counties under the vote of 1908, which gives the Republicans a decided advantage.

A conservative view of the strength of the parties in the convention is that the Democrats will have 40 delegates and the Republicans 60. But this really leaves the Democrats in control; for on their approval depends the acceptance of the Constitution by the people, who must pass on it at a special election before it is referred to Congress. It is generally understood that unless the Constitution embodies some of the provisions insisted on by the Democrats the people will vote it down, and Statehood will be indefinitely delayed.

Another factor in the situation is the fact that the native people do not as a rule desire Statehood, fearing it will mean higher taxes. This will give those who desire to defeat the Constitution additional force to oppose it.

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Among Democrats and Republicans alike there is resentment at the un-American treatment received by New Mexico at the hands of Congress. No other State which entered the Union has been subjected to such humiliating restrictions.

The most galling of these is the provision of the enabling act that Congress, as well as the President, may pass upon the Constitution, which has never been required before in the history of the country.

The President while here on his western trip made the threat that unless New Mexico adopted a Constitution that was "conservative" he would not approve of it. He has since given out this impres-

sion in Washington. Fearing that New Mexico will follow the example of Oklahoma, he has made it plain that he will not lend his influence to an early admission of either New Mexico or Arizona unless they avoid what he terms "freaks" in their organic law.

But the Democrats have not been scared away by the threats of the President. They will insist on a progressive Constitution, at the risk of having it rejected. The prediction is made, however, that the President and Congress will not dare reject a Constitution approved by the people of New Mexico, but are attempting to coerce the people into accepting

a Constitution along lines agreeable to the corporate interests, which are now busily at work in New Mexico.

WM. HOFFMAN.

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OREGON OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Portland, Ore., July 28.

The People's Power League of Oregon proposes this year, by Initiative petition, a bill to create a board of "three people's inspectors of government" who shall edit an official gazette (p. 703), a magazine to be published every two months from the State printing office.

If the voters approve the bill, the inspectors must have at least one of their number present at all times at every session of each chamber of the legislature to take note of what is done. Upon the demand of one inspector they shall investigate and report on the management of any public officer of the State, of a county or a municipality, or of any State institution. They must publish their reports in the official gazette; must publish criticisms or complaints, not exceeding two hundred words, made by citizens, of the official acts of the inspectors; must publish all proclamations by the Governor, and brief reports by the Governor on the different departments of the State government; must publish similar reports by county commissioners and by mayors of cities; must publish new laws and Constitutional amendments, and all publications now required by law to be mailed to the voters; must publish matters of public interest concerning the acts of Oregon Senators and Representatives in Congress; and also news of progress and experiments in government in this and other countries. The proposed law limits the cost of the Official Gazette to not more than \$1 for each registered voter in the State, though it is to be mailed free to voters, and prohibits the publication in it of advertisements.

If the bill for the Official Gazette is approved by the voters, the first three inspectors are to be appointed in this way: The Governor must request the State Grange to name three persons, the State Federation of Labor to name three, and the presidents of the different commercial bodies of the State to name three; and from each set of three the Governor must choose one. So it is pretty safe to say that there will be no unholy combine in that trio, especially as any one inspector can start an investigation. In 1912 they are to be elected by proportional representation. The inspectors are to have expert accountant help, and should they need extra

money they shall not go to the legislature, but shall ask the people for it by Initiative petition. That will make them independent of the legislature.

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Now, why such a publication at public expense?

In order that the people may have correct information about their own affairs, information that they do not get, and apparently cannot get, through the newspapers.

The newspapers have said but little about the bill, but it is significant that the proposed law was recently severely condemned by a committee of the State Bar Association, appointed by the president of the Association. The president is the chief counsel and a director of the street railroad monopoly of Portland, and as chairman of the committee that reported on the bill he appointed another corporation attorney. The same committee condemned the home rule tax amendment proposed through Initiative petition by the Oregon State Federation of Labor. The amendment will, if adopted by the voters, enable the people to put upon the corporations some of the taxation that they should carry; and the Gazette, if established, will make the people independent of tainted news columns and tainted editorial opinions, of which Oregon has its full share, thanks to Special Privilege, which is now trying to overturn the people's rule in this State.

Every observing man knows how hard it is to get reliable news of government from the newspapers, and every qualified newspaper man knows how hard it is at times to get reliable news for readers. The proposed Oregon Official Gazette would be of great value to every paper, daily as well as weekly, that is conducted as a newspaper rather than as an organ of Special Privilege—as may be inferred by anyone who sees how the census bulletins are used by papers for the writing of news articles and for editorial purposes.

From an experience of more than twenty years in editing daily papers in three States and in trying to get reliable information concerning matters of State and county and city government, I know how valuable the proposed official gazette would be; and if I were editing an Oregon paper I should advocate the establishment of this Gazette because it would help me and benefit the readers of my paper.

The very silence of the Oregon papers in regard to the bill for an official gazette, as well as in regard to other important measures to be voted on, suggests that powerful influences are at work to withhold information from the voters. Even more suggestive is the deliberate misrepresentation on the part of newspapers that are notoriously under the control of the great corporations, which use coercion and money to poison the sources of public information.

W. G. EGGLESTON.

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AUSTRALIAN POLITICS.

Corowa, N. S. W., Australia, July 2, 1910.

The first session of the new Federal Parliament (p. 535), was opened yesterday. Among the measures proposed by the Labor ministry and named in the Governor General's speech, are the following: Legal tender notes redeemable, on demand, in gold;

liberalization of old age pension requirements; progressive taxation of the unimproved value of land, with an exemption of \$25,000; provisions "which it is confidently believed, will, by making fertile land available, speedily induce very large numbers of people of the right kind to settle on the lands of the Commonwealth;" a Constitutional amendment "for the purpose of enabling the Federal Parliament to legislate effectively with regard to corporations, commercial trusts, combinations, and monopolies in relation to trade, manufactures, or production, industrial matters, and navigation," to be submitted "to the electors at a referendum early next year;" provision "for uniform postage rates throughout the Commonwealth;" steps toward leasing "a telegraph line across Canada for a period of five years," and "obtaining the permanent use of a line, as well as of a cable across the Atlantic, thus securing a state-owned service between the United Kingdom and Australia."

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In South Australia, a Labor party government for the State has been formed, with Crawford Vaughn, formerly secretary of the South Australian Single Tax League, as one of the Ministers.

ERNEST BRAY.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

RECKLESS INSENSIBILITY.

Boston, Mass.

It is difficult to write with moderation of President Taft's delivery at Bar Harbor,—though every allowance be made for one who has long enjoyed enormous official salaries, who ruled for years in a colonial palace, who has been provided with special trains, motors, yachts and a summer villa by the sea, and who was surrounded, when he spoke at Bar Harbor, by the rich, and luxurious and the representatives of those great "Interests" with which he is in close connection at all times. His recommendation of "two or three months' vacation" as necessary to relieve the nervous strain of the work of the autumn and spring, exhibited either reckless disregard of facts or cruel insensibility to them.

The President is not President of the rich and great, but of the toiling millions to whom a vacation even of a week would mean starvation!

Two months' vacation for the laborers in the fields under the summer sun! Two months' vacation for the workers in textile factories with their humid atmosphere and the deafening roar of machinery! Two months' vacation in the glass factories, in the coal mines, in the mechanical trades! What a cruel satire is the mere suggestion! How provocative of socialism is this utterance from the public servant who has left his official residence without warrant and who threw himself in good fellowship with the idlers about him, whose life is a life of pleasure and who take their "two or three months' vacation" only from one pleasure to another.

Not to speak of those, the unspeakable class, the

truth is that the long vacations of certain groups of men have grown to be a scandal. Those of the educators have become unreasonable and are undoubtedly to be reduced; and the Protestant clergy have greatly weakened their influence by the excessive and prolonged holidays they have demanded.

Mr. Taft's utterance can not be passed over as immaterial. It is ominously significant of a changed official attitude. Fancy Abraham Lincoln recommending "two or three months' vacation" as a good practice for the American people!

ERVING WINSLOW.

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, August 2, 1910.

An Economic Anti-Clericalism.

On the ground that the interference of the Vatican with the Spanish Government's anti-clerical program (p. 661) is unjustifiable, Premier Canalejas on the 29th recalled the Spanish Ambassador to the Vatican, the Marquis Emilio de Ojeda. The Premier is quoted in the press dispatches as declaring that Spain is struggling for liberty of conscience, saying: "Poor Spain! If we succumb, it will be decadence. The government, which possesses the confidence of the King, will save Spain despite all and against all. The struggle we wage is not anti-religious but anti-clerical. We count upon the army, a majority in Parliament and reason."

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Regarding the critical situation as opportune, the cousin of the King's father, the Infante Don Jaime, son of the late Don Carlos (vol. xii, p. 711), pretender to the throne of Spain, issued on the 29th a manifesto to the Carlists in the Cortes, congratulating them upon their loyalty to the Pope and their defense of the church, and declaring: "I think the day is not far distant when my followers must rally to our flag. I will lead the battle."

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That the whole burning question is at bottom one of economics (p.661), appears again from a statement made in Washington on the 30th, by the Spanish minister to the United States, Mr. Juan Riano. According to a special dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald, Mr. Riano said:

You may make it clear and draw a line around it to emphasize it, that the present trouble is not be-

cause of an anti-clerical feeling on the part of the Premier or any of the people of Spain. The whole thing is a commercial problem, which might come up at any time in any country, and has come up in the Philippines and in France.

Under article 29 of the Concordat of 1851, between Spain and the Holy See, the right was granted to the Societies of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Felipe de Neri and one other society to be approved by the Holy See, but unnamed, to enjoy certain privileges in Spain. Spain allowed these monks to carry on various kinds of businesses without taxation. Since the time of the Concordat, monks of other religious societies have crowded into Spain in overwhelming numbers. Those who were debarred from France and the Philippines, or who chose to depart from either of these countries, came into Spain and they have almost crowded native Spaniards out of business.

These overwhelming numbers of monks have conducted schools, bookbinderies and manufactories of other sorts on a large and growing scale, operating without the disadvantage of taxation submitted to by the native Spaniard in similar business, and they have nearly driven such native Spaniards out of business.

It therefore became the duty of the Spanish government to offer some protection to Spaniards who sought to do business, and Senor Canalejas called upon the Holy See to reduce the number of monks engaged in trade in Spain. This, it seems, the Holy See could not see its way clear to do, and thus arises the present situation.

There had been no talk of anti-clerical feeling. The people are not against the monks because they are monks, but because these monks are business men doing business without taxation in competition with those who have to pay taxes. The Premier has done everything he can do to straighten the tangle out, without success. The Carlist element, injecting politics into the situation, calls the whole thing a religious question, when religion does not enter into it in any way. Senor Canalejas is as good a Catholic himself as anyone could be.

The London Nation says that "there seems little likelihood that the question will be settled by negotiation. Spain is seized with the audacious ambition of returning to the old tradition that even in her dealings with the church she is a sovereign state."

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How Thoroughly Diaz was Re-Elected.

Complete returns of the recent Presidential elections in Mexico (p. 613) have been given out as follows:

For President—General Diaz, 18,829 electoral votes; Francisco Madero, 221; Teodore Dehesa, 5; General Bernardo Reyes, 3; Jose Ives Limantour, 1.

For Vice President—Ramon Corral, 17,373; Teodore Dehesa, 1,420; Francisco Masquez Gomez, 318; Jose Ives Limantour, 21; General Bernardo Reyes, 9; Enrique C. Creel, 1.

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Deportation from the Philippines.

The Supreme Court of the Philippine Islands

rendered a decision on the 30th upholding the right of the Governor General to deport undesirable, and denying the right of the courts to interfere with him in this matter. The opinion was rendered on an appeal by the Governor General in a suit brought by the counsel for six Chinese who were deported to Amoy and who returned shortly afterwards. On their return the Governor General again ordered their deportation. Meanwhile the Board of Immigration had made a favorable decision in the case of the Chinese, and Judge Crossfield ordered their release. He also issued an injunction forbidding the Governor General and the Manila police from deporting them. The Supreme Court in its decision asserts that the Governor General has plenary powers to deport objectionable aliens. The decision also declares that insular courts have no authority to interfere with the Governor General in the exercise of these powers.

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Ohio Republican Convention.

At the Republican convention for Ohio (pp. 673, 683) on the 27th, James R. Garfield announced, as soon as the platform was completed, that he would not be a candidate for Governor, but gave no reasons. It was reported, however, that he was unwilling to stand upon that platform; and later it developed that Congressman Paul Howland, upon whom Mr. Garfield had depended to bring in a minority report, declined to do it at the last minute, and there was consequently no fight on the convention floor. On the third ballot, Warren G. Harding, reported as a Foraker follower, was nominated by 796 votes to 120 for Judge Brown and 185 for Nicholas Longworth. "Boss" Cox supported Brown until the third ballot, when he delivered his strength to Harding. Mr. Harding was Lieutenant Governor of Ohio when Myron Herrick was Governor.

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Republican Convention for Nebraska.

The Republican convention for Nebraska met at Lincoln on the 26th. Its platform declared for county option regarding the liquor traffic, a clause that was opposed and was but barely carried in the committee on resolutions, but was adopted overwhelmingly by the convention. On national questions the Insurgents are reported as triumphant, although Congressman Norris (Insurgent) was defeated for permanent chairman by State Senator Brown (Standpatter); for a resolution offered by Congressman Norris and adopted by the convention declared that—

every protest against wrong is "insurgency" for the right. We are unalterably opposed to the system known as "Cannonism" and are in hearty sympathy with the Insurgent movement in and out of Congress. We urge our Senators and Representatives to make

use of their votes and influence along progressive lines in the future.

* *

Bryan and the Democratic Convention for Nebraska.

The Democratic convention for Nebraska on the 26th (p. 658) at Grand Island was distinguished for the defeat of William J. Bryan in his effort to pledge the party in that State to county option regarding the liquor traffic. He urged upon the convention the wisdom of declaring for county option, as the Republican and the People's parties had done, thereby removing the liquor question from the campaign instead of making an issue of it and putting the Democratic party of the State in the position of champion of the liquor interests. The question arose in the convention on a minority report presented by Mr. Bryan as a member of the committee on resolutions. The minority report in full was: "We favor county option as the best method of dealing with the liquor question." It was defeated by 647 votes to 198. The platform declares for the initiative and referendum. Governor Shallenberger was renominated.

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John Lind's Nomination in Minnesota.

John Lind (p. 697) was nominated on the 28th by the Democratic convention for Minnesota at Minneapolis, notwithstanding his positive announcement that he would not again enter politics. The platform demands the initiative and referendum, but leaves out county option on the liquor question, a policy that Mr. Lind strongly favors. Upon being notified of his nomination Governor Lind telegraphed from Everett (Wash.) a positive declination. He afterwards pursued his journey to Alaska. No action on his declination is yet reported.

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New Party in Pennsylvania.

"The Keystone party" was organized at Philadelphia on the 28th at an independent conference (p. 685) previously called. There were 117 delegates from 52 counties. The following candidates were nominated: For Governor, William H. Berry; for Lieutenant Governor, D. Clarence Giboney; for State Treasurer, Cornelius D. Scully; for Secretary of Internal Affairs, John Casey. Mr. Berry, the nominee for Governor, has been State treasurer (p. 182) and has a State reputation as a single taxer.

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The Making of a City.

Under the headline of "Pure Single Tax at Prince Rupert," the Seattle Post-Intelligencer of July 26, publishes the following special news dispatch:

Prince Rupert, July 25.—Prince Rupert will have a tax rate of 15 mills this year, the first tax rate struck

in the new terminal city. The Council passed the budget after several hours' debate. The revenue for the first year will be about \$150,000. In addition to this there will be several thousand dollars from licenses. The aldermen have adopted the single tax system and no improvement taxes whatever will be levied. The city's revenue will be derived from the land and licenses altogether. This is a step farther than any city on this continent has yet dared to take, the aldermen say, and the outcome will be watched with interest. A strong argument was made by Alderman G. R. Naden to reduce the rate for the first year. He took the stand that the outside investor would hesitate to put his money into a town which called upon property owners to pay such a large sum at this stage of its history. The rest of the Council maintained that the outsider was out for profits only and did not care how the money was raised so long as he cleaned up a few thousand each year. Those speculators, they held, should therefore be called upon to furnish their share of the revenue. There is an immense amount of work to be done here before there will be anything like a city, and that work is being started now and will be rushed ahead for the next couple of years.

NEWS NOTES

—The Knights Templar of the United States will hold their 31st triennial Conclave in Chicago from the 7th to the 14th.

—Judge Ben B. Lindsey of Denver began a series of campaign speeches in Wisconsin, on the 7th at Monroe, in behalf of Senator La Follette.

—The eighth International Prison Congress is to meet at Washington on October 2 (vol. x, p. 588). For the first time there will be Chinese delegates at the Congress.

—The Direct Legislation League of Illinois, with Mrs. Raymond Robins as one of the incorporators, was chartered on the 27th at Springfield. Frank Bode of Springfield is president.

—A State campaign in Illinois in furtherance of the Peoria resolutions (pp. 626, 662) was begun at Springfield on the 26th, with Raymond Robins, Walter R. Rogers, and Herbert E. Fleming as the principal speakers.

—May Wood Simons, wife of A. M. Simons of the Chicago Daily Socialist, and herself one of its editors, goes to Copenhagen as national delegate from the United States to the International Women's Socialist Congress (p. 587).

—Eugene V. Debs was operated on for abdominal trouble at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, Minn., on the 27th. The operation is reported to have been entirely successful and Mr. Debs' condition as not alarming, although he suffers from the wound.

—A compromise of the Illinois coal strike (p. 492), proposed by the national president and the international executive committee, was voted down on referendum, as reported on the 28th, by 12,075 to 80. The international president, Mr. Lewis, announces that the vote will be disregarded.

—William Sulzer (p. 444), for many years a member of the New York legislature and once its speaker,

who has been elected to Congress over and over again from New York City, notwithstanding his independence of Tammany Hall, is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor of New York.

—The committee appointed by the Peoria conference (p. 662) met at Springfield on the 26th and decided that cards be placed in the hands of the voters in every senatorial district of Illinois to assist them in questioning candidates for the legislature regarding civil service reform, a corrupt practices act, and the initiative and referendum.

—An armed conflict between Negroes and white men, the causes and merits of which are not yet reported, and are probably not known, began on the 30th at Palestine, Texas. The first reports stated that 50 Negroes and 17 whites had been killed, but subsequent reports have given little information except that the whites were the aggressors.

—Bulletin No. 5 of the National Conservation Association (p. 653), which was issued on the 30th, summarizes the Congressional legislation advocated by the Association at the last session, and the fate of measures opposed by it. These Bulletins may be had of the Association upon request, by mail or otherwise, at its headquarters, Washington, D. C.

—Thomas Mott Osborne (vol. xi, p. 221), three times mayor of Auburn, New York, president of the George Junior Republic, chairman of the Democratic League (vol. xii, pp. 890, 899, vol. xiii, p. 119), and a member of the up-State public utilities commission (vol. x, p. 313), has formally announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for governor of New York (p. 649).

—A complimentary dinner was given Herbert S. Bigelow at Kimball's Cafe, Chicago, on the 2d, at which A. P. Canning, candidate for Congress from the Evanston district, presided, and John Z. White and Raymond Robins were among the speakers. Mr. Bigelow is about to make an extended lecture trip under the auspices of the Henry George Lecture Association.

—The Supreme Court of Oklahoma decided, on the 27th, that Oklahoma's capital shall remain at Guthrie until the legality of the election recently held (p. 563) is determined and the courts have settled the Constitutional question embraced in the provision of the enabling act that Guthrie shall remain the capital until 1913 and that an election shall be held after that time to establish a permanent capital.

—The Republic of Haiti (vol. xi, p. 921; vol. xiii, p. 421) has ratified to an American syndicate, headed by James P. McDonald of New York, concessions for a railroad which will connect the interior of the country with four seaports. The syndicate also secures all the unoccupied public lands up to a distance of twelve miles on both sides of the railroad. It is intended to establish a central sugar refinery, for which the Artibonite river will supply the power. The syndicate will issue bonds, the interest and principal of which will be guaranteed by Haiti.

—Announcement is made by The Henry George Lecture Association (F. H. Monroe, manager, 356 Dearborn street, Chicago, Ill.), that it has added Edward P. E. Troy, of San Francisco, Cal., to its lecture staff. Mr. Troy is especially interested in

the public ownership and operation of public utilities and will be assigned to cities where franchises have expired or are about to expire, to co-operate as an expert in efforts to provide for public ownership and operation, or the largest possible degree of public control, whichever seems practicable and desirable under all the circumstances of time and place.

—John G. Carlisle died at New York City on the 31st, at the age of 75. He was a member of the Kentucky legislature from 1858 to 1860; State senator in Kentucky from 1867 to 1871; lieutenant governor of Kentucky from 1871 to 1877; member of Congress from 1877 to 1893, and speaker from 1883 to 1889; and secretary of the treasury under President Cleveland from 1893 to 1897. In the Presidential campaign of 1896, Mr. Carlisle opposed Bryan's election by supporting the Gold Democrats, and at the close of Mr. Cleveland's administration, took up the practice of law at New York City, in which he continued until his death.

—A. M. Simons, whose strong and readable editorials for the Chicago Daily Socialist (vol. xii, p. 723), of which he has been editor since its start, have justly placed him high in the ranks of American editorial writers, has severed his connection with that paper, in order to take the editorship of "The Coming Nation," a new Socialist weekly to be published at Girard, Kansas, by J. A. Wayland, owner of the Appeal to Reason. Charles Edward Russell, the magazine writer, is to be associated with Mr. Simons in the editorial work of the new publication, and Carl Stover and J. O. Bental are to have temporary editorial management of the Daily Socialist.

—Amalgamation of two of the largest national banks of Chicago, the Continental and the Commercial, was completed on the 1st. The amalgamated institution ranks third in the United States, while in net deposits it is said to exceed even the National City and the National Bank of Commerce of New York City. It will act as reserve agent for 5,100 banks, or about 20 per cent of the entire number in the country. These banks represent practically every important community through the central West, West and South, as well as many in the East, and include 1,700 national banks and 3,400 State and private financial institutions. George M. Reynolds is president.

—Dr. Hawley H. Crippen and Ethel Clara Leneve were arrested on the 31st on board the Montrose, upon her arrival at Father Point on the St. Lawrence, upon accusation of murder in London. They had boarded the vessel at Antwerp as father and son, Miss Leneve being dressed as a boy. Through wireless messages the ship captain's suspicions were conveyed to Scotland Yard, the police headquarters in London, and by a faster vessel Inspector Dew came to Quebec, the destination of the Montrose. Wireless messages were exchanged frequently with the Montrose to the extent of thousands of words, but the two fleeing passengers were unaware of their discovery until the Inspector came aboard with the pilot at Father Point, when they were immediately arrested. They are now confined at Quebec, awaiting the expiration of the 15 days required between arrest and extradition. The whereabouts of the suspects was unknown until the captain of the Montrose

had his suspicions aroused by Miss Leneve's awkwardness of dress and manner in the character of a boy. This is the first use of wireless telegraphy for the discovery and pursuit of persons charged with crime.

—The bill modifying the King's oath with reference to Roman Catholicism (p. 637) passed the British House of Commons on the 29th by 245 to 52, after having been amended to satisfy non-conformists by striking out a proposed clause pledging the King to the Church of England. As it passed the Commons the oath reads: "I do solemnly and sincerely, in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare that I am a faithful member of the Protestant church as by law known in England, and I shall, according to the true intent of the enactments which secured Protestant succession to the throne of my realm, uphold and maintain the said enactments to the best of my powers and according to law." On the 2d the bill was accepted by the House of Lords.

PRESS OPINIONS

Self-Punishing Crime.

Collier's (ind.), July 30.—A crime against economic law is the sort of crime which is more sure than any other to find its own remedy in the long run.

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The Passing of Bryan.

Chicago Record Herald (ind. Rep.), July 28.—The "Passing of Bryan" is an old theme, so very old that it can hardly be handled with confidence now in spite of the new interest that has been given it by the Nebraska convention. . . . There may be several chapters left of that old story, "The Passing of Bryan," and they may be painfully exciting to divers Democratic politicians.

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Direct Legislation in Illinois.

The Chicago Examiner (Hearst), July 29.—It is now measurably certain that the next session of the Illinois legislature will have something to consider other than bathroom disbursements, graft and gabble! The Peoria reform conference, the Democratic conference at Lincoln and the Chicago harmony committee have all selected the initiative, referendum and recall as the major issue of the coming campaign; and a Direct Legislation League has just been incorporated at Springfield for the purpose of pushing the issue in every Senatorial district in the State. . . . an issue more important, by far, than any subject debated in Illinois since Lincoln and Douglas discussed the impending crisis fifty-two years ago!

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Radical Progress in Taxation in Cleveland.

The Plain Dealer (ind. Dem.), July 21.—It has long been a matter of general belief that homes in Cleveland were more heavily taxed, in proportion to their value, than large estates and the properties

of corporations. "Peter Witt's tax school" several years ago turned up much evidence to that effect, and unequal taxation was one of the evils attacked in Mayor Johnson's campaigns. The Secretary of the quadrennial appraisal board brings the belief into the realm of plain fact. Secretary Zangerle has been comparing present and past appraisals in Cleveland. He finds that, while home valuations have been raised considerably, the valuations of corporate property and unused land held for speculation have been placed much higher proportionately. The aim of the quadrennial board was the uniform appraisal of all property at its face value, and so naturally the large properties, formerly undervalued, were raised to a greater extent than the homes. As a result of this readjustment Mr. Zangerle estimates that Cleveland home owners will pay, under the new appraisal, \$2,000,000 less than formerly. This amount, saved by the home owners, will naturally be paid by the corporations and land speculators.

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The Land Issue in Australia.

The (Sydney) Worker (Labor), June 2.—The Fusion newspapers are expressing a pious hope that the Fisher Government will adhere to the maximum rate of fourpence in the pound, which was the limit in the bill for the taxation of land values introduced when Labor was last in office. "The Worker" sincerely hopes they will not do anything so foolish. Fourpence in the pound will raise revenue right enough, but as a bursting-up tax it is a stupendous joke, and should it be persisted in, the last laugh, which we are told is the best laugh, will be that of the Fusion newspapers. Labor, discredited and undone, will be unable to see the joke. If there is any one item of Labor policy upon which the Labor Government will be judged it is its progressive land tax. On every platform we have declared that our object is to throttle land monopoly in Australia, and that the best means to that end is a progressive land tax. Should we fail in that, faith in our ability to deal effectively with great issues will be shaken, and we shall meet a just retribution at the polls.

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The Keystone Party.

The Johnstown (Pa.) Daily Democrat (dem. Dem.), July 30.—The Democrat would be false to itself, false to the people and false to popular and honest government if in the present crisis in the history of Pennsylvania politics it should hesitate to indorse the independent, or Keystone party, nomination of William H. Berry for Governor. Berry in the first place should have been the choice of the Democratic convention at Allentown. He was robbed of that honor by one of the basest acts of perfidy in the history of the State. He was entitled to the nomination because he had earned it and he would have gained it if trickery had not prevailed among a set of conscienceless politicians who entered into a brutalizing deal with the Penrose band of buccannereers. It was the certainty that Berry if nominated by the Democrats would be elected that troubled the conspirators and in the eleventh hour of victory that seemed to be his they stabbed him in the back and

insulted not only the great mass of the Democrats of the State, but a large army of Republicans and independents who had come to regard him as one of the truest and purest men ever called into public service. . . We carry Berry's name at our mast-head this morning. It is our solemn duty to the Democratic party. It is our duty to all the people of the Commonwealth.

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Imitations.

Chicago Daily Socialist (Soc.), July 20.—C. W. Post has built up a fortune on sham coffee. He has acquired the habit of offering substitutes until he believes that there is always something "just as good" as the original. Just now he is advertising a substitute for trade unionism. He has formed a sort of sawdust and straw substitute for the real thing. He is paying good money to poor papers to tell about this latest imitation. Post's imitation union does not strike. It never boycotts. It only asks the boss, real pleasant and gentle like, to raise wages. If the boss refuses, the union accepts his statement that "there is a reason" and goes back to work. Post offered Roosevelt a hundred thousand dollars a year to become president of this sawdust substitute for a real union. In this he showed good judgment. Roosevelt would have been "just as good" as a real president. He makes a noise like a real president. He looks like the real thing—if you do not get too close, and is about as good an imitation of a union official as postum is of a real morning drink. Postum is only possible because there is a real coffee for it to imitate. Post's sawdust union is called into existence because there is a real union movement to be imitated. Because the real unions get real benefits, Post has organized an imitation union to keep the worker quiet with imitation benefits.

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Canada as a Pacemaker.

Portland (Ore.), Labor Press (Labor), July 16.—One of the most prominent educators of Oregon returned recently from Victoria, B. C., where he met with a number of the leading citizens of that city relative to the construction of a magnificent Y. M. C. A. building. A score or more of the wealthiest men in that British province were in consultation. It was the unanimous opinion that in the shortest possible time the legal steps could be taken the city of Victoria would follow Vancouver in taking all taxes from improvements. As they pointed out to the American visitor, they simply had to do so to attract capital and population. British Columbia is pretty close to Washington, and Washington to Oregon. Something is going to happen when improvements are released from all taxation in British Columbia.

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The Ottawa, Ont., Citizen (ind. Lib.), July 16.—The greatest loss that any nation suffers under normal conditions is that resulting from the locking up of land in private and unused possession. Familiar as is the custom today, and little as it is

regarded as an element of either loss or danger, the time is nevertheless rapidly coming when the full significance of the practice will be recognized. . . . There is a method, already clearly outlined and wisely advocated, whereby unlocking may be done, and without the least infringement of the right of private property. It is one that should appeal to every wise man, and especially to every man whose interests are larger than the mere conserving of his own selfish gain. Quite apart from all political party or program, there should be a common co-operation in the use of the key which would open the land to those who need it. This method is, in short, the basing of taxation upon land values. . . . Taxation should be based upon the unimproved value of land. A farm which has been improved by the industry of its possessor by the enrichment of the soil and the erection of buildings, should pay more taxes than the farm with equal possibilities, which through the shiftlessness of its owner had been allowed to run down, or for any financial reasons has been held without cultivation. The policy of taxing improvements, and of fining the best citizens for their industry, is socially suicidal and economically fatal. Before we in Canada have advanced too far in our nation-forming, let us apply the principle which alone can give us relief from the evils that have afflicted other nations, and which have sprung from the practice of locking land. . . . The greatest nations of the world—Britain and Germany—have recently discovered and dared to use this taxation key; while New Zealand and some Australian Commonwealths have been using it for nearly two decades. Canada has made a good start in some western municipalities—notably Vancouver, which this year is exempting all buildings and other improvements from taxation. Why should not all municipalities adopt this progressive step?

+ +

A Gold Mine in Every City.

The Portland (Ore.) Labor Press (Labor), June 18. —The way in which the land speculator is encouraged by our assessors and tax laws is illustrated in the Huffman tract, located about five miles southwest of the city and about two miles from Council Crest, described as a part of Section 19, Township 1 S., R. 1 E. One tract of a trifle over 81½ acres is assessed for \$7,000 for the land alone, exclusive of improvements. This is less than \$86 an acre. The lowest price asked for any of this land by the owner is \$800 an acre—and then up. There are hundreds of acres of this sort of land in that section of the country held at similar figures. Some as high as \$1,000 per acre. When uncleared, it is sometimes as low as \$300 to \$400, but its assessments are lower. Much of it is in Washington county. The conclusion is forced upon the observer that, if the land of Multnomah county was assessed at an average of half its value, not a cent need be collected from any other source, and especially from the cottage of the small home-owner.

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In the country the more rich people there are, the less wealth there is.—Marmontel.

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

SONG OF THE BILL-BOARDS.

For The Public.

How sing to us the bill-boards,
The unretiring bill-boards,
That line the vacant lots on every hand;
The billious, pillious posters,
The million billion boasters,
The high-ball eyeball roasters,
Multitudinously littering the land?

“When the workers ride to town
We tell them how to drown
Every care that may beset them through the day;
And when they come from work
We cajole them with a smirk
Into spending soon as possible their pay.

“With our little artless art
We continually impart
A taste for decoration up-to-date;
Around the people's parks
We're on hand with our remarks—
They can lose us just about as well as Fate.”

So sing to us the bill-boards,
The flaunting, taunting bill-boards,
The bill-boards that blossom everywhere,
Persuading into trading,
Jading without fading,
Invading and degrading;
Do they stay because the people want them there?

“Some say they do not like us,
And some have tried to strike us
From the landscape spreading vacantly to view;
But we're safe in our position
So long as our fruition
Means dollars to the highly favored few.

“So long as we can pay
What the kind assessors say
Are the taxes due for land that's out of use,
We shall bill our little boards
And increase the boomer's hoards
In spite of any manner of abuse.

“Why not take us as we are?
It is surely better far
Than regard us as an irritating ill;
For here we take our stand
Till the people own the land.
Now, really, do you think they ever will?”

Sing thus to us the bill-boards,
The bullying blatant bill-boards,
The bill-boards that bloom along the way.
They have no worth without us,
Yet they scout us and they flout us,
So readily they rout us.
How much longer will the people let them stay?

FREDERICK LE ROY SARGENT.

SPAWN OF THE DEEP.

For The Public.

IV. The Beaching of the Squids.

Strange squelching and spurting sounds, mingled with spasmodic squeakings, draw attention to the edge of the incoming tide, where the spreading waters that before had been smooth as quicksilver in the amber radiance of sunset, are now threshed to tumult by some vigorous sea life.

Thirsty horses eagerly drinking at a trough would not surpass the vehemence of the persistent sucking and wallowing noises, while the cheeping of gulls or scolding of squirrels is suggested by the accompanying shrill protests that rise from the sand each time that a wave recedes.

The surprised observer hastening to the tideline finds it strewn with stranded squids or calamaries trying to struggle back to the deep. Distending the flexible tissues of their tubular flanks, till from the usual shuttle or cigar-shape their bodies become more like smooth pineapples, with the tuft of tentacles as crown-leaves, they violently compress them again, blowing forth through the vents at the base of the neck lusty jets of water, or where the wave leaves them uncovered, ejecting stertorous blasts of air that furrow the wet sand.

Absurd and yet pathetic as these efforts, are the contortions of the tentacles writhing and tugging in the attempt to help, with the body sometimes nearly somersaulting over them, while here and there two strugglers grapple each other with the tenacity of drowning human swimmers.

Along the beach, people who have been drawn by the commotion feel the pathos in common, and are hastily throwing the helpless things out before they perish, though as they turn in the air their cry is more like a rat's protest in a trap than delight or gratitude, and if they strike headed shoreward they rush back to their jeopardy again.

But it is worth the rescuer's trouble when one of the little living torpedoes falls with pointed form directed seaward and darts fleetly away as though discharged from a tube, and the triangular fins on either side of the prow stretch and fold down rapturously as the wings of a liberated bird; while out from among the trailing tentacles are emitted parting gushes of the creature's obscuring sepia ink, to prevent pursuit by the mysterious peril that had relentlessly gripped them and was so hardly escaped.

With discernment the constructors of racing craft and projectiles, for air or water, have adopted the shape of this humble swimmer as their model, capable of such facile speed as it instantly develops in its own medium, where the slightly extruded point draws a thin lance-head of ripples far along the calm ocean surface.

But the life-savers on the shore find their task too great, for, perhaps chased in by hungry fish, new companies of the squid frequently dash

ashore, wheeling like some erratic maneuver of submarine war craft that disastrously beach themselves, with the useless engines beating the air in clamorous unison of distress.

Like interplaying streams of a fountain the expelled water jets leap and cross above each sprawling group, as the members indignantly dilate and contract their muscular syringes, renewing the desperate sputtering, snuffling and wet wheezing like a burlesque epidemic of influenza, while the shrill crying in chorus that doubtless earned the little cuttle fish its colloquial name of "preke," drolly resembles the collapse of children's balloon pipes or the remonstrance of trodden rubber toys. Yet perhaps after all this may be a stave of Caliban's uncouth whistling, or even attain the plain-tive dignity of a salute from Pan's own pipes.

And lest the hasty observer should dare pronounce these grotesque offspring of the sea, in their bewilderment, ugly and despicable, among the somber brown forms with an almost black stripe along the back, appear here and there those that rival translucent chrysoprase in shifting hues, where through the backs is revealed a strange, restless pulsating of liquid beneath, suggesting the thin flow of water under ice in the thaws of earliest spring, or the play of light waves in a fluorescent tube.

The bellies of these when turned to view display a lustrous, exquisite iridescence of fused pale greens and blues beyond all power to record, surpassing the splendor of those glass vessels from ancient tombs and exhumed cities, that secret processes of the vanished artificers glorified with their marvelous "reflet." Though these remain the stimulus yet almost despair of modern skill as it creates vases and bowls of favrile ware, after prolonged toil and costly experiment, they nevertheless must yield in magnificence of adornment to these easily disdained ocean denizens, that are swept into the nets of fishing smacks to be cut to pieces for bait, or lie here on the strand gasping out their frail life, like priceless lost treasures of some forgotten collector, unwittingly jostled and spurned in a turbulent bazaar.

Did the Indians who once ranged these same dunes at the sea brink, from which we were just now drawn to investigate the strange disturbance, exchange laconic comments of surprise and descend the sandy slopes for a closer view of this tragi-comedy of the calamaries' plight? Did they perhaps see the likeness between these slender shapes ending in the fleshy tufts of prehensile tentacles, and the quivers full of plumed arrows at their own shoulders?

And were they, too, moved to help the perishing creatures back to the deep, with feet slipped out of their moccasins, or with sinewy hands holding them for closer scrutiny, so that for a moment the pulsating back and resplendent flanks of an iridescent among the captives would gleam

against the dark human flesh, like a great throbbing opal in a ruddy ironstone matrix, or a humming bird of gorgeous plumage hovering in the calyx of a somber Brazilian flower?

Certainly this full moon just risen free of the horizon vapors must have witnessed unnumbered repetitions of such forlorn wreckage of the gelatinous living shuttles, as they fling themselves in rash self-destruction out of the rippling patterns they wove on the ocean's immense loom, where now with ever brighter sheen its fluent fabric is assuming a delicate, bluish-white glamor from the dazzling lunar disk.

With the same perplexing silence and impartiality the moon's gaze rested on the portentous combats of saurians, and the struggles of prehistoric man, through vast evolutionary epochs, as tonight on the mingled agonies and delights of the world's tumultuous cities, and the animal life of jungles and seas, even to this vagrant episode of the squids' frenzied suicide.

It is no wonder that the quaint, blotched semblance of a visage in the orb's radiance comes to seem, to certain moods, the inscrutable aspect of a sphinx, from which as archetype that of Egypt may have been sculptured, but so much older as to make the pyramids' hoary consort dwindle in age to a baffling-faced infant.

Whether, then, it be the plains of Mesopotamia, the shores of the Nile, the Athenian Acropolis or the Roman forum, strewn with the wrecks of by-gone civilizations and religions, or the sands of Sahara flecked with the caravans' bleaching bones, or even this beach overspread with the deep's eructation of its strangling progeny, everywhere the insistent human queries are stirred by the drama of creation and dissolution, regardless of the scale on which it is enacted.

And always Nature's response is the obdurate blandness, beyond all provocation and emotion, that seems itself a counter question—wrought into a terrestrial symbol, by hands of men unknown, in the battered stone sentinel of the African desert, and celestially presented in the hinted features of the moon-face, all but drowned in its own refulgence, at the frontier of unimaginable wastes of space.

ELIOT WHITE.

* * *

THE WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE.

Alice Henry in the Dispatches of the Service of The Survey Press Bureau.

You have all heard of the Strike of the Forty Thousand, when the shirt-waist girls in New York and Philadelphia left their machines in the depth of winter and stayed out till the employers accepted their terms.*

*See The Public of June 24, p. 588.

Why did they strike, when it was so hard for them? That was what the public asked. That was what some employers asked, too, when driven to distraction by silent machines and unfilled orders. The answer of one little Jewish girl was to the point. "How can you live," said her former employer, "if you won't come back to work?" She said slowly in her queer, formal English:

"I lived not much on forty-nine cents a day."

Would not you strike too, if you had forty-nine cents a day; if you were fined a day's pay for being five minutes late; if you were charged for a worn-out presser-foot; if you had to pay for power to run your employer's machine?

These were the conditions which the words of one girl, "I am tired of talking, let's do something," changed from an ordinary petty dispute to a struggle of national importance.

This girl is typical of the finest material of the strikers. She is a young Russian Jewess, not yet out of her 'teens, who had in her own country a good schooling. She herself did not strike because of personal hardship, but because many of her sister-workers were paid so poorly and treated so badly.

It was at this stage that the New York Women's Trade Union League was of such service. It more than any other one body brought this story before the public, and linked together socialists, suffragists, lawyers, clergymen and society women, to raise money to keep this enormous body of workers from starvation, to enroll the girls in the Shirt-waistmakers' Union, to rent halls in which they could meet, to provide speakers in English, Yiddish and Italian, and to aid in drawing up agreements as fast as employers were willing to make terms.

Thus organized and thus expressed, the restless dissatisfaction of the girls was focussed on certain simple clear demands, and these in the end were gained: A 52-hour week; a limit to night work; increased pay, and a contract with each shop drawn up by the union.

The Strike of the Forty Thousand is a mirror of conditions common in the life of working girls. The part taken by the Women's Trade Union League is typical of that which the organization is beginning to play in the lives of our young girl workers.

It is but six years since the League began its work in Boston. The national headquarters are in Chicago, and the president is Mrs. Raymond Robins. She is fired with a religious enthusiasm for the welfare of the young working girl. There are now local branches in New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, Springfield (Illinois), and Philadelphia, Cleveland and other cities are coming in line.

The League is an expression of the mother spirit of the women of this continent, watching over

the young growing girl, helping her to relate herself to her brothers in the labor union and to her sisters who are in the service of the home and the child. Everyone can belong. It is not only a gathering together of women's unions. It provides a fellowship to which can belong the working woman and the woman of leisure and the woman's club anxious to help in bringing about the shorter working day, a wage on which a girl can live, and in hastening the time when all dangerous machinery will be protected, and every factory well-lit and ventilated. Anywhere and everywhere the man or woman who wants to see the precious gift of the girlhood of each generation conserved as carefully as the forests or the waters, can help by joining.

It is a wonderful training school for its members. The inexperienced work-girl, and the woman who has never had to earn her own living, come into touch with some of the wonderful personalities who, under the prosaic title of business agent, are helping other working girls to know their own powers.

Here is how one business agent, Melinda Scott, handled a situation that the unprotected young factory-worker has to face often: A little Polish factory girl was insulted by a foreman. She complained to the superintendent, but was told it must have been her own fault. She sent to the owner of the factory a registered letter and obtained the official receipt. No reply was forthcoming. Melinda Scott as business agent was now appealed to. She went straight to the superintendent, and told him she would call "Shop" within fifteen minutes if this foreman was not made to publicly apologize. The employer was telephoned for. He came in his motor, and within the fifteen minutes the foreman was asked for an explanation he could not give. "Very well," said the employer pointing to Miss Scott, "you do as she says and apologize." The foreman did what was asked, and the same day received his walking papers.

Could church or priest have preached a more forceful sermon on morality?

* * *

INSENSIBILITY.

I saw him at the Carlton, in his wine,
His white broad hand along the table lay;
A waiter passed a savory made of swine,
On scraps of pastry, which he waved away,
Then looked about him over his pince-nez.

He carried all the while a genial air
Of infinite patience through that weary meal;
Stroking at moments his well-parted hair,
Or fumbling at his waistcoat, where a seal
Hung from the pocket, like a cotton-reel.

At last his friend beside him, who had read
Two or three times the evening paper through;

And answered to whatever he had said:
"Ah!"—his attention to a column drew,
Murmuring through heavy lips, "Can this be true?"

He took the paper patiently, with like
Patience began to read it and to carve
A shilling strawberry. 'Twas about the strike—
A hundred, in the cause, had sworn to starve.
He put it down, and muttered: "Let them starve!"
—H. Monro.

BOOKS

A GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL.

A Life for a Life. By Robert Herrick. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York, 1910. Price, \$1.50.

There is a bigness about Robert Herrick's latest book that renders the writing of a calm and controlled criticism difficult. The magnificent breadth of the canvas; the multiplicity of detail, touching our national life at its heights and its depths, and yet fusing all together in the grand outlines of a central theme of symphonic bigness; the acute realism of the single pictures and the splendid richness of imagination that generalizes from the Part to the Whole—all these qualities of a great prose epic this book possesses in measure overflowing. It might well be called the American "Faust," the epic of our modern national tendencies, our modern national life. Like Faust, the hero, Hugh Grant, touches life at all points, learns to know the lure of successful endeavor, and the joy of returned love,—but he sees the sting, the hellish bargain by which the desired goal is won, and at the last learns that true peace comes only through self immolation. This, roughly outlined, is the thematic note of this magnificent prose epic, written in a prose that oftentimes reaches the richness of verse, lacking only the outer form.

Hugh Grant, the foundling from the country town, follows the lure of the city, and at the outset of his endeavor encounters the two extremes of modern industrial society. The maiming of the little sewing girl in the shirt-maker's loft, and the chance meeting with the bearded "Anarch," who explains the economic reason—taught by hate—for such incidents, come as prelude to Hugh's introduction to the multi-millionaire, Alexander Arnold, and his glimpse of luxury in the Arnold home, of power in the bank controlled by Arnold—twin symbols of Success. The great electric sign "Success" that lit the attic chamber which was Hugh Grant's first—and last—home in the city sheds the glare of its artificiality over all the life that he learns to know under its watchful eye.

Helped by native ability, drawn by the lure of power, the beckoning of love, Grant mounts the ladder rapidly. But the very thing that gives him

his big success, his work for the Rainbow Falls Power Plant, also brings his downfall. For in his years of work in the mountains ideas have come to him which suddenly crystallize into the Vision, the understanding of the Injustice done by man to man under the guise of Progress, of Advancing Civilization, of Business Prosperity.

His friend the Anarch takes him through Inferno and shows him with what toll of human life and human happiness the wealth is produced that goes into the pockets of a few. The knowledge sinks deep into Hugh's heart, and parts him from the woman he loves, Arnold's beautiful daughter, the fair flower whose sweetness is drawn from untold human suffering in hundreds of other lives. Single-handed Hugh endeavors to fight the Octopus by cutting off one of its myriad tentacles, the power to harness the clouds and force men to pay tribute for the water that God provides for all. Baffled in this by the legislating creatures of the Interests, Hugh seeks refuge in self-denial. If he cannot right the wrong, he at least will not profit by it. In the great natural cataclysm that overwhelms the city—a fine bit of imaginative writing—Hugh stands at last face to face with the true soul of his love, the soul he had sought in vain before. There he meets death in the work of rescue.

The book is marvelous as a piece of strong, virile writing. Its grasp of the true state of things in a great industrial community of today is as remarkable in its conception as in its interpretation. For readers of *The Public*, however, the solution of the problem offered by the author will come as a "lame and impotent conclusion." Mere self-abnegation of him who sees the Injustice is of little or no help to the sufferers therefrom. Refusing to share in the wrong alone will not right it. And the nebulous scheme of gathering together a few hundred little ones and teaching them "the individual good will to renounce, working against the evil will to possess"—the same idea that weakens the conclusion of the strong second part of Björnson's "Beyond Human Power"—isn't going to be of much good to anybody but land monopolists, who are likely to profit hugely when these children grow up and go out into the world.

But it is too soon yet, perhaps, to ask for the great constructive work of fiction along economic lines; and the enlightening power of such a book as this can be a tremendous influence for good.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

* * *

YOUTHFUL VERSES.

Chords and Discords.—By Walter Everett Hawkins, Author of "Sweet Dreams of You." Published by the Murray Brothers Press, Washington, D. C.

Verses by a young Negro who regards himself as having "merely been the instrument through

which some peculiar unknown something has from early childhood been speaking." Some were begun when his little world "stretched just out across a few acres of corn and cotton to the little creek on the further side of the cow pasture," and "up the lane to the old schoolhouse and back again;" the others in different circumstances as his education went on. They are much the same in quality as the verses of a white boy of similar ambition, education and experience might be—probably better on the whole; and there is here and there a touch of that race expression, not bitter, which hasn't yet found its interpreter.

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GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION.

The Dethronement of the City Boss. Being a Study of the Commission Plan as begun in Galveston, developed and extended in Des Moines, and already taken up by many other cities, East and West. By John J. Hamilton. Published by Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York and London. 1910. Price \$1.20 net.

This book, the first effort of which we are aware at systematizing the rapidly advancing history of the commission plan of city government, rightly treats the "Des Moines plan" as the type. The pioneer Galveston plan was too imperfect to count as more than a suggestion. Such a book is needed, and for so good a one there ought to be a wide demand. It tells the whole story of this municipal evolution, from Galveston to Grand Junction, and conscientiously as well as fairly. An appendix contains the text of the Des Moines charter, and the judicial opinion in support of its constitutionality. Notwithstanding the newness of the reform and the necessity for definite statement, this book is interesting as well for its style of narration and comment as for the information it gives.

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RAILWAY FINANCE.

The Earning Power of Railroads. Compiled and Edited by Floyd W. Mundy of Jas. H. Oliphant & Co. 1910. James H. Oliphant & Co., 20 Broad Street, New York City, and the Rookery, Chicago, Sole Sales Agent, Moody's Magazine, Book Department, 35 Nassau Street, New York City. Price \$2.50. Postage 12 cents.

This annual, which has been regularly published for nine years, appeals to investors as presenting "the vital facts regarding all the important railroads of the United States, Canada and Mexico," giving mileage, capitalization, bonded indebtedness, earnings, operating expenses, cost of maintenance, fixed charges, comparative statistics, etc. Such information is needed of course, not only by persons seeking opportunities for investment, but also by students of the relation of railroads to public affairs; and for their purposes a

book designed especially for investors is less likely than any other to be inadequate or misleading.

PAMPHLETS

The Life of a River.

"Physical Features of the Des Plaines Valley," by James Walter Goldthwaite (Bulletin No. 11, Illinois State Geological Survey, Urbana, Ill.), like its predecessor on "The Evanston-Waukegan Region" (vol. xi, p. 428), arouses keen interest in the wonders of Illinois home scenery. Prairie State people in the presence of California or New York, are altogether too meek about their own landscape. They need Thoreau or the Geological Survey to take them a-walking.

A. L. G.

PERIODICALS

The continuation of the late Senator Platt's autobiography, dealing principally with the Greater New York campaign for Mayor in 1897, is the most interesting feature of McClure's (New York) for August, unless Louise Parks Richards' attractively illustrated life stories of the Oberammergau Passion Play players be excepted.

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Mark Twain will probably be an interesting magazine subject for many a long day, and George Wharton James's story of his career on the Pacific Coast, in the Pacific Monthly (Portland, Ore.) for August, should count among the best. Several portraits of Twain and one of Edwin Markham, add to the interest of this reminiscent article, which includes among its anecdotes a story of how Mark Twain came to write about that jumping frog of Calaveras county.

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Out on the Society Islands old fashions prevail. There is no tax on land, no national domain and so little land for sale that in all these one hundred islands there exists no real estate agency. Improvements are taxed, labor is scarce and cheap, "manufacturing is done on a very small scale" and the "mercantile houses already established are in excess of the needs of business." "A further subdivision of lands is highly desirable" and "the question of a land tax or of expropriating unimproved landed property is receiving serious consideration." These gleanings from the report, July 7, of the United

States Consul at Tahiti (Bureau of Manufactures, Department of Commerce and Labor), might be sorted for him into causes and effects by a Georgian friend.

A. L. G.

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"July 24 is now to be grouped with those other great days, July 4 and July 14, for on that day Turkey got the freedom that we Americans celebrate every 4th of July and the French every 14th," writes Hester D. Jenkins in The Outlook for July 9 (287 Fourth Ave., New York). The article, entitled "A Beneficent Revolution," is filled with the experienced observations of an American who lived intimately with the peoples of Turkey for ten years before and during the Revolution of 1908.

A. L. G.

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The Twentieth Century (Boston) for August, contains an article by Odon Por on systems of insurance against unemployment, an appreciation of Eugene V. Debs by George Bicknell, and a paper on systematic civic instruction by Clinton Rogers Woodruff. George W. Moore tells of Detroit's street car problem, Levi S. Lewis explains the development of railway-rate extortion, and Mr. Flower writes editorially of the experience of New Zealand with industrial democracy, of Congressman Martin's fight in Congress against land grabbing in the Philippines, and discriminatively of some of the periodicals that are fighting the people's battle and others that are not. Mr. Flower's modest omission of the name of the Twentieth Century from the former category makes it all the more imperative that the people, whose battle it also is fighting, should place it there.

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The "Barbarous Mexico" series (p. 579) is renewed in the American Magazine (New York) for August, with an explanatory editorial note and a contribution by Dorothy Johns, the latter corroborating the Turner articles and confirming the significance of the title. In the same magazine in the department of "Interesting People," there are excellent portraits of Mrs. Raymond Robins, and her hardly less distinguished sister, Miss Mary E. Dreier, and also of William Kent (pp. 434, 651). The sketch of Norman Hapgood (editor of Collier's) accompanying his portrait, contains this remarkably fluent characterization: "The prime article in his scheme of life is humility of intellect. He hates dogmatism and prejudice. He grows impatient with a man who is not equally open-minded. He arrives at his conclusions by a free play of the intellect. It has an almost winged freedom, and at times the leap and reach

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DANIEL KIEFER.

of it are as good to see as a child at play. He would love to be more radical than his clean, honest thinking will permit him. Intellectually, he is fickle, and you cannot depend on his plighted word. He is always revising his judgments about things, and his estimates of men, so that you have to be sprinting to keep up with him."

+ + +

Mr. Bigheart: "Wiggins, old boy, we have raised \$50 to get the boss a Christmas present, and we

want something that will make a show for the money—something that will look big, you know. Can't you suggest something?"

Wiggins: "Sure. Buy \$50 worth of rice and boil it."—Men and Women.

+ + +

Friend: "How's business in this neck of the woods?"

Uncle Jake: "Fine! I tell ye, this Punkin Hollow store of mine is getting quite a national reputa-

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tion. Only yesterday I see an advertisement in the paper, 'Canem's Codfish—Sold by Grocers Everywhere,' and I'm one of 'em."—Puck.

* * *

"You may have heard the rumor, young man," said the eminent statesman, "that my name has been mentioned in connection with one of the most important offices in the gift of the president."

"Why, no, sir," answered the reporter; "there is

no such rumor as that in circulation, so far as I know."

"Well, there will be within a few hours. You may say in tomorrow morning's paper, if you like, that 'the senator, on being questioned as to the truth of the story, refused either to affirm or deny.'"—Chicago Tribune.

* * *

Professor (after calling on Blank and waiting for him to recite): "Seems to me, Blank, you ought

The St. Louis Mirror,

Edited by William Marion Reedy,

knows the difference between poor books and good ones, and has an interesting way of its own in talking about them. This is what it says of "Social Service," by Louis F. Post:

"It is a philosophy of life, based on the fact that we live by serving one another, money being only a system of tokens of service rendered. Properly speaking, there is, says Mr. Post, in effect, no such thing as profit in a sane world; all one gets or should get is wages—pay for services, symbols of service done or to do by us. Developing his theme in conversations, Mr. Post shows how the truth of this doctrine has been distorted, how it has come about that some get wages who do not serve and some serve who get no proper service in return. The paid who don't work, get power to compel service through privileges that give them control of opportunities to give service for service. They are the parasites. Those who serve are thus measurably enslaved, when cut off from opportunity. And chiefly they are thus cut off by being debarred from the use of the earth on equal terms with others, with all. The book is dedicated "to Tom Loftin Johnson, who also sat at the feet of Henry George," and it is a wonderfully linked chain of logic leading to a climactic Q. E. D. Why not?"

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to be able to answer my question with all the prompting you're getting back there."

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* * *

"The proudest boast of the old-time robber barons was that they never robbed a poor man."

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"You did? Not so's I could notice it."

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