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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:

First Things First.....	1225
Have Troubles of Their Own.....	1225
What Consistency Requires.....	1225
The Freight Rate Decision and Public Ownership.....	1226
The Same Old Balt.....	1226
The Railroads' Unearned Increment.....	1226
Vindication of Senator La Follette.....	1226
Mummified Statesmanship.....	1226
Commercial Inconsistencies.....	1227
Curtailing Property Rights.....	1227
The Right to Slavery.....	1227
Good Advice From the Health Department.....	1228
Wasting the Earth.....	1228
Merry Christmas.....	1228

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS:

The Mayors' Conference—M. G. Lloyd.....	1229
---	------

NEWS NARRATIVE:

Railroad Rate Increase Allowed.....	1229
Commission on Industrial Relations.....	1230
Congressional Doings.....	1230
Popular Government League Convenion.....	1231
Mexico.....	1231
The European War.....	1231
News Notes.....	1232
Press Opinions.....	1233

RELATED THINGS:

Loss and Gain—Joseph Dana Miller.....	1233
The Wolf and Sheep Question—Ellis O. Jones.....	1233
Man's Right to Work—Edwin Markham.....	1234

BOOKS:

Not a Guide Book.....	1234
Books Received.....	1234

INDEX.....	1235
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EDITORIAL

First Things First.

"Social justice comes first," said President Wilson in his message of a year ago. It is still entitled to priority. That is one reason why Congress can not properly waste time on the worse than frivolous propositions of army leagues and navy leagues. There are many other reasons, besides. But the one mentioned is sufficient.

S. D.



Have Troubles of Their Own.

It would be highly amusing, if it were not so pathetic, to see the plight of those European nations that were so clamorous a short time ago over their property rights in Mexico, and are now confronting such industrial chaos at home. The slaughter of men there does not seem to have added anything in point of efficiency to their diplomacy over what we have practiced here.

S. C.



What Consistency Requires.

If exportation of war supplies while a war is in progress is giving aid to a belligerent, so also must be exportation before a war has started. There could be no exportation were the supplies not manufactured, and the only object of manufacture at any time must be to help some one somewhere to engage in the war game. So if Congress is going to consider legislation to shut off war supplies from Europe, why not do the job completely while about it? Why not legislate against exportation not only for use in this war, but for use in any war at any time? And why not, to be thoroughly consistent, refuse to pass any more appropriations for purchase of war materials by our own government? If we are hypocritical in praying for cessation of an existing war, while sending arms to belligerents, then we are just as hypocritical when we send arms to a possible fu-

ture belligerent or when we buy arms ourselves with the idea of some time becoming a belligerent.

S. D.



The Freight Rate Decision and Public Ownership.

For the benefit of the railroad corporations the Interstate Commerce Commission has consented to the levy of a special tax on the already overburdened industry of the United States. That is what the five per cent increase in freight rates means. The action taken is not surprising, in view of the heavy pressure brought to bear upon the Commission for many months. Resistance to such pressure was difficult and this fact should be borne in mind in passing judgement on its action. But clearer than ever, through this decision, is it shown to be a fallacy that in public regulation is the solution of the public utility question. For a while it seemed as though the Interstate Commerce Commission had furnished an example of a regulative body that actually regulated. But the very restraint it put on the predatory tendencies of the railroads must have stirred these corporations to stronger efforts to subdue the Commission. These efforts seem finally to have met with success. The two latest appointments evidently strengthened corporation influence. Even in the case of so efficient a body as the Commission it is now shown possible for the regulators to fail to regulate. How can anything better be expected, then, of the many public service commissions, created to evade application of the real remedy for franchise monopoly—public ownership? The Commission's decision, however, is a severe blow to the cause of private monopoly of public highways. It makes clear that nothing but public ownership of railways can prevent railroad domination of government.

S. D.



The Same Old Bait.

Promises of prosperity are always made by predatory interests when asking for some new predatory privilege. The railroads only followed the conventional method in making such promises in order to get the freight rate increase. Possibly they will still follow convention, now that the increase has been obtained, by raising the shout that prosperity is here. But prosperity is not to be obtained through taxation of industry. Those who have been gullible enough to believe these assurances will soon have occasion to admit that they have been buncoed again.

S. D.

The Railroads' Unearned Increment.

In increasing by \$30,000,000 the taxing power of railroad monopolies the Interstate Commerce Commission has added considerably to the water in their stock. When the time comes for public ownership the cry of confiscation will be raised against the suggestion that not one cent be paid for these watered values. Let the fact be noted now, that publicly created values belong to the people, and whenever the people see fit to take what belongs to them they are under no obligation to compensate those whom they have foolishly allowed for a while to profit through such holdings.

S. D.



Vindication of Senator La Follette.

More evident than ever is the appreciation due Senator La Follette for the energetic, though futile, fight he made against confirmation as Interstate Commerce Commissioners of Henry Clay Hall and Winthrop M. Daniels. Two commissioners, in their place, of the caliber of Franklin K. Lane or John H. Marble, could have turned the decision in the rate case the other way. Yet the fact that even a President with so creditable a record as Wilson can make the mistake of such appointments, and the further fact that such a fight as La Follette made proved in vain, add force to the arguments which show regulation of monopolies to be no remedy for their abuses.

S. D.



Mummified Statesmanship.

What some statesmen mean by "prosperity" is shown in a recent address by Senator-elect Warren G. Harding of Ohio, quoted in the Cleveland Press. Speaking before the Railway Business Association in behalf of increasing freight rates, Mr. Harding said:

Joseph proclaimed the warning to lay by an abundant store during the seven fat years in order to be prepared against the seven lean years. Egypt prospered wonderfully thereby!

According to the Bible Pharaoh did prosper wonderfully as no doubt did also the rest of the "upper classes." But as to the great mass of the people they were so impoverished that they had to sell themselves into slavery. In the eyes of statesmen of the Harding brand, these people did not count. They were producers of wealth, not appropriators. They were the lower classes. Since human nature has probably not changed much since Joseph's day, it may well be assumed that there were Egyptian statesmen who cogitated

lated the enslaved people on "our marvelous prosperity," and honestly believed what they said. It seems that Ohio is about to be represented in the Senate by a statesman whose ideas are about as advanced as those of the Pharaoh of Joseph's day.

S. D.



Commercial Inconsistencies.

One of the many things that disposes a man to think better of his kind is the interchange of commercial courtesies at the falls of Sault Ste. Marie. Upon one side of the river is a great lock and canal built by the Canadian Government, and on the other side is a still greater lock and canal, built by the United States; and the ships that pass up and down the lakes enter whichever lock offers at the moment the quickest service, for both are free. Now the New Welland canal is to make a still further extension of this commercial friendship. The new canal, which is to be ready for use in 1918, will have a capacity for the largest boats. It will be 25 miles long, 200 feet wide at the bottom, and 310 feet at the water line. There will be seven locks, each 800 feet long, with 30 feet of water on the sills. Each lock has a lift of $46\frac{1}{2}$ feet, or a total of $325\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The cost of the construction will be \$50,000,000. The most remarkable thing about the canal, however, and the best, is the fact that it is to be free to the shipping of both countries.



When will these two peoples, living on opposite sides of an imaginary line, tear down the artificial commercial barriers that they have erected? Why offer these inducements to trade, and then, when the trader brings in his goods, fine him for it at the custom house? How long will it be before the statesman will supplement the work of the civil engineer?

S. C.



Curtailing Property Rights.

Those ultra-conservative individuals who object to the Singletax because it has been proposed after present property rights were established; who complain that since they have paid "good money" for their titles nothing can now limit their rights; and who further maintain that to introduce such a radical change in our system of taxation would in fact be a destruction of their property rights, will be shocked by a recent decision of the Illinois Supreme Court. The City Club of Chicago, in its campaign for the city beautiful, secured an ordinance from the City

Council limiting the use of billboards in residence districts. The lower court decided against the right of the city to pass such an ordinance; but upon the appeal of the City Club the Supreme Court has reversed the decision, and upheld the law.



This is a direct limitation of the right of ownership of land to the extent to which it goes. It takes from the owner the right to say what use shall be made of his property. It also deprives him of the revenue that he might receive from the rental of the billboard. But this decision is really in keeping with the interpretation of the laws governing the ownership of land. Years ago it was the custom for municipalities to make street improvements by a general tax on all property, and land was bought and sold with that understanding. About a hundred years ago there began a practice of making certain street improvements by means of a special tax on the land only, and that according to its frontage instead of its value, as theretofore. Thus it happened that the man who had bought the land with the understanding that pavements, sidewalks, sewers, etc., were to be put in by a tax on all property, was compelled to pay for these improvements out of his own pocket, which to that extent limited the value of what he had bought. If property owners quietly accepted the shifting of the cost of street improvements from labor products to the land, will not they accept with equal grace the shifting of the cost of police, schools, and other branches of government from labor products to land values?

S. C.



The Right to Slavery.

Answering the question as to what he meant by "The right of every man to work where, for whom and upon such terms as he sees fit," Mr. J. F. Welborn of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company wrote as follows on December 10 to Mrs. Celia Baldwin Whitehead of Denver in answer to her question on page 1139 of *The Public*:

I want and in a modest way have been endeavoring to uphold the right of workmen to take employment with the company, of which I am an officer, on such terms as are satisfactory to both employer and employed, without the interference of a labor union to which the workmen do not belong and are opposed to joining.

The strike in Colorado has been called off, and the coal mine employes, representing a large majority of those working in the mines before the strike was called, have established their right to

work without molestation from the union seeking to dominate them and the coal mining industry.

Clearly then Mr. Welborn's position was not correctly stated in the pamphlet signed by himself, from which Mrs. Whitehead quoted. Although his language is different, Mr. Welborn's reconstructed statement explains his position to be exactly as Mrs. Whitehead described it:

You mean that you want every man free to take any job you offer him, on such terms as you see fit, without any dictation from a labor union.

The right of men to become slaves without molestation from the union seems to have been vindicated in southern Colorado. But as Mrs. Whitehead assured Mr. Welborn, he is within his rights in insisting on this travesty on freedom "so long as the men composing the labor unions vote to let you and a few others own the earth." If the loss of the strike impresses this fact on the labor unionists of Colorado, it will have done more for Labor's cause than a dozen strike victories could have accomplished.

S. D.



Good Advice from the Health Department.

The Department of Health of Chicago issues a monthly bulletin of advice concerning matters relating to public health. In the December issue it shows the relation of the Science of Political Economy to the Science of Health in the following: following:

If you have a vacant lot what are you doing with it? Has it occurred to you that there is some better use it may be put to than to let it lie idle and pay taxes on it? Of course, this is not the growing season, but next spring will be; and then what are you going to do? If your lot lies out on the west, northwest or southwest sides of the city, the soil is good and it will grow all kinds of vegetables. Why not, then, put the vacant lot to some good use? A great many thousands of bushels of potatoes alone could be produced on Chicago's vacant lots. Man is dependent on the soil for his living. Let us then make the land productive.

Calling attention to this fact is probably as far as the Health Department has power to go. But in doing this it makes clear the need of legislation to force holders of valuable unused land to either improve it or let go. Pending such legislation the possibility of vacant lot cultivation as a means of partial relief of the unemployed problem is indicated. Where this method has been tried with some success, the greatest difficulty has been in securing permission for use of land from landowners who presumably suspect the presence of a Singletax object lesson. The opposition of these landowners has in many places made such use of lots impossible. That

their suspicions are not without foundation may be readily admitted, but whether or not opposition is thus justified is another question. Perhaps if Chicago's United Charities would take up this sound suggestion of the Department of Health and use some of its vigorous campaign methods on the city's vacant landowners, Chicago might not be so deeply disgraced next winter as it is now by the presence of so much undeserved poverty and distress.

S. D.



Wasting the Earth.

The report of Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, of Tampico, Mexico, telling of the waste by fire and accident of large quantities of oil in that district, calls attention again to the enormous losses suffered by society through human carelessness. A well, said to be the largest in the world, and having a capacity of 150,000 barrels per day, is afire, and the company is making vain efforts to extinguish it. Another well with a capacity of 45,000 barrels per day, broke loose and poured 500,000 barrels of oil into the river before it was recapped. This is but a repetition of what has occurred in our own American oil fields, in the natural gas fields, and in the great timberlands of the north. Everywhere the eagerness to secure the largest profit in the smallest space of time, and with the least outlay, and the absence of all control and regulation by the public, led to many avoidable accidents that resulted in the destruction of vast quantities of the natural resources of the earth. Carelessness has allowed oilwells to catch fire and burn for long periods. Gas wells have been fired, without any means of shutting them off. And some have burned for years uninterruptedly. This is not as waterpower, that continuously replaces itself, but is fixed in quantity; and once gone it is gone forever. Men allowed natural gas to burn continuously, rather than pay for shutting it off, because it was cheaper. Cheaper perhaps it was to them, considered from the momentary advantage, but it cost society the loss of a large quantity of stored-up energy. The great timberlands were cut over in a way to invite fires, and to cause denudation; thus preventing the regrowth of the forest, and spoiling the lands and rivers besides. The conservationists, both nationally and internationally, have a great work before them.

S. C.



A Merry Christmas!

You who take life seriously, who see its deeper meaning, who realize its greater possibilities, and who believe in its triumph, rejoice. Be not bowed

down by present conditions; let not the hardships, the suffering, the injustices overwhelm you; but take heart of what has been done, and gird yourself for what is still to do. Good cheer is as necessary to the soul as sunshine to the plant; and those who would do their best in behalf of their fellows must have a strong body and a serene soul. The world cannot be made over in a trice. The utmost that can be done is to accelerate its evolution. The evils that afflict the world must be recognized, and we should devote ourselves to their correction; but this does not mean that we must wait until the last injustice has been removed before relaxing. Rather should we rejoice at each step of the way. If no progress has been made, we should give over trying; if progress has been made we should recognize it, and celebrate the victory. Nothing is so bad but that brooding will make it worse; nothing is so good but that thinking well of it will make it better. The world is not bad, but ignorant, and that ignorance is day by day being overcome. The war in Europe is not a reversion to barbarism; it is merely so-called civilization intensified. Man has not returned to savagery; he never has been civilized. Yet he is on a higher moral plane than ever before. There never was so much love, kindness, and justice in the world as there is at this very moment. The golden age is not in the past, but in the future; and our souls should be uplifted by the vision of the brighter day that is yet to be, rather than bowed down by what has been and is. At this season of the year when more human hearts beat in unison than at any other time, and each is prompted to think more kindly of his fellow, add your own mite as the seed of the spirit that is to regenerate society. A Merry Christmas to you all.

s. c.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

THE MAYORS' CONFERENCE.

Chicago, December 19.

The report of the Mayor's Conference at Philadelphia, in *The Public* of Nov. 20, does not give a very adequate impression of the scope of the proceedings. A number of representatives of privately owned utilities participated, and the sentiment expressed for municipal ownership was by no means overwhelming, even among city delegates. The general attitude was perhaps best expressed by Mayor Baker, who regarded municipal ownership as a question of economic policy, not to be adopted universally, but only where it is expedient.

There was discussion of local versus state regulation, with the weight of argument on the latter side.

Commissioner Eshleman did not specifically discuss this question, but the opinion he expressed was strongly in favor of state regulation and not as stated in your report.

M. G. LLOYD.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, December 22, 1914.

Railroad Rate Increase Allowed.

Five per cent increase in freight rates was allowed by the Interstate Commerce Commission as requested to 35 railroad systems comprising 112 railroad companies on December 18. Exception was made in shipments of coal, coke, iron ore and articles on which the rate was fixed by unexpired orders issued previous to this decision. The territory affected is that part of the country east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomac. No increase is allowed on lake and rail traffic. The resulting increased revenue to the railroads is estimated at \$30,000,000. An application by the western roads for a similar increase is pending awaiting the result of an investigation. The decision was by a five to two vote. The dissenting minority consisted of Commissioners Clements and Harlan. Commissioners Clark, Meyer and Hall, who had joined in refusing the advance in July, turned about this time and joined with McChord and Daniels, who at that time were in favor of granting the railroads all that they asked.



The decision concedes the railroads' claim of needing more revenue and that the war has made the advance necessary. Carriers will be required to keep an account of additions to their revenue from increases in rates subsequent to July 29, 1914, and from new charges, and to report separately thereon to the commission at the end of twelve and twenty-four months. Reference is made in the decision to the claim made by the carriers in 1910 when, in asking for permission to advance rates they asserted that refusal would destroy their credit. The fact that after this refusal they borrowed many hundreds of millions is also mentioned, but in spite of this, the commission declares that it does not doubt the present contention of the roads that their credit is at stake. The first effect of the decision was a sudden rise in prices of railroad stocks on the New York Stock Exchange. [See current volume, pages 1045, 1165.]

Commission on Industrial Relations.

J. L. Hendrick, district attorney of Las Animas County, Colorado, told the Commission on Industrial Relations at Denver on December 12 that the coal companies controlled the courts. In twenty-three years, he said, he has never known a personal injury suit to be decided against a coal company. Juries are usually made up of Mexicans and others who cannot understand English, and all testimony as well as the court's charges are delivered through interpreters. While the militia was in Trinidad, Mr. Hendrick declared that citizens were in fear of expressing opinions lest they be thrown into jail. He had three times asked Governor Ammons whether martial law prevailed and each time was told to "Ask General Chase." On the day following the shooting of three strikers, prisoners of the militia, he had gone with the coroner to conduct an investigation, but Mayor Boughton, in the local command of the militia, denied the right of civil authorities to examine a soldier. The attorney-general of the State had relegated him from participation in the trial of cases against strikers involving charges of violence and murder. F. B. Farber, station agent at Ludlow, testified that it had been known to him for several days before the battle at Ludlow that the soldiers were planning to destroy the tents of the strikers. He said further that Lieutenant Linderfelt started the battle by exploding bombs. Linderfelt followed Farber on the stand and said that the bombs were signals that they were about to be attacked. He admitted having broken a gun over the head of Louis Tikas, the strike leader, who was a prisoner at the time, and was later found dead. Edward L. Doyle testified on December 15 that the federal troops as well as the militia favored the operators. Though the federal troops did not shoot the strikers they assisted in importation of strike breakers. As secretary-treasurer of the local miners' organization he consented to inspection by the Commission of its letter files and records. The hearings concluded on December 16. John R. Lawson told of a message he had sent to President Wilson declaring John D. Rockefeller, Sr., responsible for refusal of the operators to meet the men in conference. State Senator Helen Ring Robinson told of an attempt to get Governor Ammons to release "Mother" Jones from imprisonment. She said the Governor replied by attacking "Mother" Jones' character and was told by her that that was no concern of the Governor of Colorado. [See current volume, page 1211.]



In Kansas City on December 18 Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the Commission, is reported to have stated that the calling off of the strike in Southern Colorado is but a truce, and that the

strike itself was but an incident in industrial war that has been going on since 1876. He is reported to have said further:

The mining industry in Colorado has been anarchy. There is no government there. Never have I seen such an intense sense of injustice as prevails among the miners in Colorado. Never have I known so many irritating facts to cause the sense of injustice. When John R. Lawson of the International Board of the Mine Workers of the World tells the commission that the laws and the justice of Colorado are controlled by seven directors of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, sitting at 26 Broadway and never having seen the mines or the mine workers, the statement is interesting.

When the statement is proved, as it was proved by overwhelming testimony, hardly contradicted, then the statement becomes startling and disturbing.

The elections in many precincts are held within barbed wire inclosures on the company's own grounds. In one of these precincts one hundred votes were counted against the Colorado constitutional amendment to relieve the workers from the risk of injury. Does anyone suppose that those men actually voted to deprive their own wives and children of compensation in case they were killed?

Over in Primero (within one of these barbed wire inclosures, by the way) I saw and talked with the chairman of the school board and the manager of the circulating library. He was an affable man who runs a saloon in a building which he rents from the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. He pays the company \$1,500 a year rent, \$125 a month, for the use of the building which the company says cost it \$3,000. Two years' rent paid for the building. To this saloon-keeper, who is the trustee of the people's reading and information, the minister who presides over the company's sociological department sends what papers, periodicals and books he thinks are good. The Denver papers (except the Denver Express, which favored the workers) and the Saturday Evening Post and Puck and Judge can get past the barbed wire. No other newspapers or periodicals can.

If our commission on industrial relations can clear the way by even indicating what the way is, and can secure this nation from a wrong start to the solution, leaving the work all to be done over again, we will have accomplished far the biggest part of what we hope to accomplish.



Congressional Doings.

The House Committee on Military Affairs agreed on December 19 to an appropriation of \$101,000,000, for the army. No provision was made for an increase of the army or for the creation of a reserve, both of which have been much agitated for recently. Former President Roosevelt on December 16, declined an invitation from Congressman Hobson to appear before the House naval committee to urge a big navy program. Mr. Roosevelt said that he did not believe that he could accomplish anything by appearing. Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt,

appeared before the naval committee on December 16. He said that the navy is short of about 30,000 men, that it would take months in case of war to get the reserve vessels in fighting shape and that the United States ranks third among the naval powers of the world.

A vigorous fight by Senator La Follette compelled the Senate on December 16 to adopt an amendment to the treaty for safety at sea before ratification. As adopted by the international convention at London January 2, 1914, the treaty was open to such construction as to nullify the pending seamen's bill and regulations regarding immigrants. Senator La Follette's amendment expressly permits such legislation. Since ratification was necessary by December 31, Senator La Follette was able to force adoption of his amendment and in that form the treaty was finally ratified. [See current volume, page 609.]

Popular Government League Convention.

The Second National Conference on Popular Government will be held in Washington on January 4th and 5th next. Headquarters and conference hall at the Willard Hotel. One of the themes to be considered is: "How can the Progressive Elements of all the Parties Get Together for the Control of Government?" The address of the president, Senator Robert L. Owens, of Oklahoma, will show that reactionaries are conducting a nation-wide campaign against popular government measures. Other subjects will be: First, "What is the Matter with the Direct Primary?" Vicious "jokers" in several primary laws which enabled machine politicians to control nominations in the last election will be discussed by men from these states. The short ballot and the preferential ballot as necessary adjuncts to the direct primary will be urged by experts. Second "The Need for an Effective Federal Corrupt Practices Act." Reports showing corruption, coercion, and an excessive use of money in the last campaign will be made by men who know. Third, "The Problem of Publicity." How to get the truth regarding candidates and measures to the voters for intelligent action. Advocates of popular government throughout the country are urged to send representatives. Judson King is executive secretary of the league with headquarters at 1017 Munsey Bldg., Washington. [See vol. xvi., page 1187.]

Mexico.

Brigadier General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, arrived in Naco, Arizona, on the 20th to endeavor to restore order. He does not supercede General Bliss, but being personally known to both Governor Maytorena

and General Hill, it is thought he may talk them into reason, and avoid the use of force. General Maytorena has promised to fire no shots toward the United States, but insists upon retaining his position in trenches around the city. General Hill continues to fire upon the besiegers.

Small battles in the vicinity of Tampico are said to favor the Carranza troops. The Villa general in charge of San Luis Potosi is reported to have gone over to the Carranza forces and surrendered the city. General Zapata occupies the city of Puebla, the principal place between Mexico City and Vera Cruz, and is pressing on toward Carranza's coast capital. The new government under Provisional President Gutierrez appears to be growing in strength.

The European War.

Reports from the campaign in Poland, while confused and contradictory, appear to favor the Germans, who have advanced their center to within a few miles of Warsaw. The Russian advance on Mlawa is reported checked, and reverses in Galicia are claimed. Serbia, on the other hand, is reported to be free of Austrian troops. In the West the Allies advance at a snail's pace in Belgium and northern France. Three German cruisers crossed the North Sea and shelled three English coast cities, two of which were unfortified. England has proclaimed a British protectorate over Egypt, with Prince Hussein Kemal as Sultan. No decisive action has occurred at any point. [See current volume, page 1212.]

The Campaign in the East.

Confusion, contradiction and uncertainty mark the reports from the Polish campaign. What was announced by the German press as the greatest battle of the war, and the most brilliant victory was reported from Poland on the 17th. Berlin was decorated and the school children given a holiday. Later accounts are less definite in their claims, and agree that a great battle is now in progress thirty miles from Warsaw on the Vistula and the Bzura Rivers. The Russians continue to press their campaign in East Prussia, where they have made slight gains, and in the neighborhood of Cracow. This is taken to indicate that they are not afraid of losing the campaign before Warsaw. The Austrians are reported to have withdrawn all troops from Serbia, but to have made advances in Galicia. Real facts regarding the Eastern campaign are very meager. Nothing at all definite is reported of the Turkish-Russian operations, which are looked upon as of minor importance.

The Campaign in the West.

No great action has been reported, but there has been a vigorous pounding by the Allies all along the line, resulting in small gains at various points, particularly in Belgium, where the German lines have been forced back. The operations near the coast have been assisted by the fleet, which was able to shell the Germans for some distance inland. These operations are said to have cost the Allies heavy losses, as progress is made only by taking fortified positions.

**Other Countries.**

Great Britain has formally announced a protectorate over Egypt, and the assumption of all responsibility for its defence. Prince Hussein Kemal, uncle of the deposed Khedive, will be the nominal head of the state with the title of Sultan. Foreign affairs will be conducted under a British resident agent. France accepts this condition. Various restrictions of Turkey's suzerainty will be removed, and the religion of the inhabitants will be respected. Thus Egypt, which came under British influence in 1882 at the time of Arabi's Rebellion, has become a part of the British Empire. The kings of Sweden, Norway and Denmark, together with their ministers, met in conference at Malmo, Sweden, on the 18th, 19th and 20th to determine a course of action by their countries during the war. There was a strong sentiment for neutrality. Belgium is taking steps to pay the German war indemnity. In response to the demands of the German governor delegates from nine provinces met in Brussels, and agreed to meet the German demand that the \$96,000,000 indemnity be paid in twelve monthly installments by issuing treasury bonds guaranteed by the nine provinces and a group of bankers headed by the Societe Generale. The Belgian relief commission, at a meeting in London, announces that they have food enough in sight to feed the people in Belgium until the first part of February, which will aid the Belgians in meeting the war indemnity. Japan's budget for 1915, which shows an estimated expenditure of \$278,000,000 and a decrease of \$40,500,000, in revenue, is before the House of Representatives. Opposition to the budget is so strong that there is fear that the Emperor will dissolve the House. The Italian Chamber of Deputies has given the cabinet a vote of confidence for its continued neutrality policy. The French minister of finance, in presenting the 1915 budget, announced that there were ample funds to bear the war strain even though it be long drawn out. He announced that France had advanced \$50,000,000 to Belgium, \$18,000,000 to Servia, \$5,000,000 to Greece, and \$100,000 to Montenegro.

On the Sea.

The most dramatic event of the week was the shelling of three cities on the English coast by three German cruisers. At daylight on the morning of the 16th three swift cruisers emerged from the fog and began a vigorous bombardment of Hartlepool, Whitby and Scarborough. Hartlepool is a partially fortified city of 100,000, 215 miles from London. Whitby is a fishing town of 12,000, 27 miles to the southward, and Scarborough is a summer resort of 40,000, 42 miles south of Hartlepool. Both Whitby and Scarborough are unfortified towns. No warning was given before the bombardment was begun. About 150 were killed, mostly women and children, and nearly 300 wounded. The cruisers made their escape after sowing mines, and returned in safety to their own waters. The chief effect of the raid was to stimulate the enlistment of English recruits. The German cruiser, Frederick Karl, is reported sunk in the Baltic, with a loss of 400 men. The allied fleet shelled the inner forts of the Dardanelles on the 19th, but the result is not stated.

NEWS NOTES

—A reception to Mrs. Mary Fels, widow of Joseph Fels, is announced by Chicago Singletaxers to be held at the City Club on the evening of December 23.

—The Christmas Ship, U. S. S. Jason, with gifts for Servian children, arrived at Salonika on the 20th, from which point the goods will be shipped by rail to Nish, the temporary capital [See current volume, page 1191.]

—Secretary of Commerce Redfield reported on December 19 that in the year ending June 30, 1914, the United States exported cartridges valued at \$938,489 to the countries now at war. To other countries the reports were \$2,538,044. During October of this year there was exported to France and the United Kingdom cartridges valued at \$1,104,744 and firearms valued at \$539,360. [See current volume, page 1212.]

—Use of vacant lots for Singletax propaganda is a method followed by George L. Rusby of Nutley, New Jersey. For the past twelve years he has maintained a signboard on a vacant lot owned by him near the center of the town on which is the following:

NEIGHBORS ARE PAYING INCREASED TAXES FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BUILDING HOUSES AND RAISING THE VALUE OF THIS VACANT LOT. WHY NOT TAX EQUALLY ALL LOTS ON THIS BLOCK, WHETHER VACANT OR BUILT UPON, AS WE NOW TAX FOR SEWERS AND FLAG SIDEWALKS? WHY FINE PEOPLE FOR MAKING IMPROVEMENTS?

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING CORRECT TAXATION METHODS, APPLY TO

THE NUTLEY SINGLE TAX CLUB.

[See current volume, page 1144.]

—John D. Rockefeller filed a petition in the United States District Court at Cleveland on De-

December 19 for an injunction to restrain County Treasurer O'Brien from collecting taxes on \$311,040,337 assessment placed on his holdings by the Cuyahoga County Tax Commission. Mr. Rockefeller declares that he is no longer a resident of Ohio, that his legal tax in that state is but \$29.64, which he had tendered Treasurer O'Brien on December 18 and which was refused. [See current volume, pages 327, 639.]

PRESS OPINIONS

A Fit Tribute.

The Herald (London), December 5.—The old saying that no prophet is accepted in his own country has its exceptions. This is so with regard to our old friend and comrade Joseph Fels, and we are glad to learn that his native city—Philadelphia—has decided to keep his memory alive. On November 5 plans for a memorial monument, in the shape of a public forum, were submitted to the City Council by the Joseph Fels Memorial Committee and accepted. The place proposed for its erection is the north plaza of the City Hall—the recognized open-air meeting place. Such a proposal is a fitting tribute to the memory of one whose life was spent in unselfish devotion to the interests of humanity. For no one believed more thoroughly than Joseph Fels in the importance and value of public discussion as a means for securing justice. One thing only now remains for Philadelphia, in common with other cities, to put into practice—the principles of land taxation which he so courageously advocated. We are sufficiently optimistic to believe that the time will come when this will be done.



The Truths He Made Clear Still Live.

The Cleveland Press, December 7.—Of late the clever chaps who, thanks to privilege and pull, have piled up great fortunes by taxing us without our representation, have undertaken to do many things for us. Carnegie wants to keep us in reading matter and pension our teachers. Rockefeller has hired doctors to "do" the hookworm and other germ enemies; has set apart a big fund to endow our charities, and is about to bring in an eminent foreigner to tell what is the matter with our industrial relations. Russell Sage left a wad to be used in investigating various things. And so on. Many of the expert uplifters applaud this system of private endowments, for it means steady hire at fat pay for a lot of their kind and a chance for all to get next. But a wonderful thing is happening in Cleveland, where a pool of philanthropic millions, known as the Cleveland foundation, has been put under partial public control. The experts of this fund have flatly reported their revolutionary belief that poverty is a community responsibility and that therefore the relief of poverty should be provided at public expense. . . . At present, under private charity, surplus wealth gives only what it feels that it can spare and operates as a check upon the radical study of poverty's causes. But if the people, instead of the plutocrats, did the taxing, it would be

to their interest to have the causes of poverty corrected as soon as possible; for the sooner the poverty was lessened, the sooner would their tax burden decrease. Tom Johnson used to tell how foolish it was to keep a few private skiffs in the river rescuing an occasional drowning man, instead of going up stream and putting out of business the private interests that were tossing thousands of persons in. Tom is dead; but his soul is marching on.

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

LOSS AND GAIN.

For The Public.

Who seeketh self, that self shall find,
But all else lose; who goes in search
Of Love and thrusts all self behind
And seeks the gentle and the kind,
On a firm rock has built his church
And lives with the Diviner Mind.

JOSEPH DANA MILLER.



THE WOLF AND THE SHEEP QUESTION.

Ellis O. Jones, in Life.

Once there was a Philanthropical Wolf who observed that there was much unrest among the Sheep whenever he entered or came near the fold.

Inasmuch as he was a Christian, God-fearing Wolf, it distressed him exceedingly to see such a lack of perfect peace among the Sheep whom he loved so much, and besides it interfered considerably with the pleasure of his meals and his ideas of efficiency to have them run hither and thither whenever he got hungry.

He tried talking to the Sheep in a kindly manner. He advised them to save their wool if they wanted to be successful in life, and he said they should always be ready to make any sacrifices necessary in order to protect the interests of superior animals who might condescend to prey upon them.

The Wolf was greatly mystified that the Sheep showed no confidence in him and totally disregarded his words of wisdom. He finally, therefore, conceived the idea of forming a Foundation, or, in other words, he appointed a number of his fellow Wolves to investigate the Sheep question exhaustively, so that nobody would ever misunderstand it again.

The Foundation sat for many years and secured many learned opinions, at length bringing in a voluminous report, of which the following was the substance:

"We find that the interests of the Wolves and the Sheep are identical, but the Sheep are too prone to yield to the germs of unrest, because the ethical and spiritual side of their nature has been neglect-

ed, which makes them altogether too worldly and materialistic. This leaves them an easy prey to a certain type of dangerous agitators, known as Bellwethers. The only remedy for this is more education of the proper kind. We, therefore, suggest that missionary societies be formed to send mild-mannered and well-fed Wolves among the Sheep to assure them that we are deeply interested in their welfare. This will accustom the Sheep to the presence of the Wolves in their midst, and it will then be possible for those of us who are more enterprising to go among them in the pursuit of our regular business without arousing undue antagonism."

In spite, however, of the excellent wording of the report, the Sheep still strove to protect themselves from the uplifting onslaughts of the Wolves. The Philanthropical Wolf, greatly angered, decided that Sheep who were so ungrateful, so blind to their own interests, did not deserve any better fate than to be eaten.

And so they all lived unhappily ever afterward.



MAN'S RIGHT TO WORK.

By Edwin Markham.

Out on the roads they have gathered, a hundred thousand men,

To ask for a hold on life as sure as the wolf's hold in his den.

Their need lies close to the quick of life as the earth lies close to the stone;

It is as meat to the slender rib, as marrow to the bone.

They ask but the leave to labor, to toil in the endless night,

For a little salt to savor their bread, for houses water-tight.

They ask but the right to labor and to live by the strength of their hands—

They who have bodies like knotted oaks, and patience like sea-sands.

And the right of a man to labor and his right to labor in joy—

Not all your laws can strangle that right, nor the gates of Hell destroy.

For it came with the making of man and was kneaded into his bones,

And it will stand at the last of things on the dust of crumbled thrones.

BOOKS

NOT A GUIDE-BOOK

The Lure and Lore of Travel. By Carl Vrooman and Julia Scott Vrooman. Published by Sherman French & Co., Boston. 1914. Price, \$1.35 net; postage, 12 cents.

In "turn-about" chapters Mr. and Mrs. Vrooman

have written an unusual book about their very leisurely years in Southern Europe—years of sympathetic appreciation of the past and present of France and Italy and Switzerland. Their hard work for fluency of speech in French and Italian, while they lived in out-of-the-way towns and small hotels, was rewarded by many months of intimate companionship with some of the leaders of thought in Europe. At Assisi they knew Paul Sabatier, the famous biographer of St. Francis, in Paris, Seignobos and Charles Wagner were among their acquaintances; and all the while in each nation they learned to know and care for not only its treasures of art but the best social ideals of its people.

Mr. Vrooman's "Political Pilgrimage," relating his experience with the freedom and efficiency of the Swiss government, is in part familiar to some American readers. His appreciation of Jean Jaures—written, of course, before that great Socialist's death—will help the world the more to realize one of the worst war sacrifices. Mrs. Vrooman's chapter on St. Francis and—curiously enough added to the volume—the story of her acquaintanceship in Monterey with Robert Louis Stevenson's old friend, Simoneau, are frankly and winningly full of hero-worship.

A travel-book is usually a bore. But this one—though not free from "travelogue" faults—is fresh with the genuine exploring instinct and humanly alive to the things of the spirit and the sense of a common world-brotherhood.

A. L. G..

BOOKS RECEIVED

—**American Labor Unions.** By Helen Marot. Published by Henry Holt & Co., New York. 1914. Price, \$1.25 net.

—**Swollen-Headed William.** By E. V. Lucas. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. 1914. Price, 50 cents net.

—**The Life of Thomas Brackett Reed.** Samuel W. McCall. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston. 1914. Price, \$3.00 net.

—**Biology and Social Problems.** By George Howard Parker. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston. 1914. Price, \$1.10 net.

—**Landmarks of a Lifetime.** By Dorcas Helen Ingham. Published by the Author, 114 S. Maryland St., Glendale, Calif. 1914. Price, \$1.25, postpaid.

—**The War Week by Week.** Being observations from "Life." By Edward S. Martin. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. 1914. Price, \$1.00 net.

—**Builder and Blunderer: A Study of Emperor William's Character and Foreign Policy.** By George Saunders. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. 1914. Price, \$1.00 net.

—**The Journal of the Joint Committee of Fifteen on Reconstruction, 39th Congress, 1865-1867.** By

Benjamin B. Kendrick. Whole Number 150, Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. Longmans, Green & Co., Agents, New York. 1914. Price, cloth, \$3.50.

—Illinois Insurance Report, 1914. Part III, Casualty and Assessment Insurance, Fraternal Societies and Inter-Insurers—Fire, Inter-Insurers—Liability, American and London Lloyds. Rufus M. Potts, Insurance Superintendent. Printed by the Illinois State Journal Co., Springfield, Ill.

“Dobbins, the art critic, has roasted my pictures unmercifully.”

“Don't mind that fellow. He's no ideas of his own; he only repeats like a parrot what others say.”—New York Globe.

At a cattle show a fellow who was making himself conspicuous at last broke out:

“Call these here prize cattle? Why, they ain't

nothing to what our folks raised. My father raised the biggest calf of any man round our parts.”

“Don't doubt it,” remarked a bystander, “and the noisest.”—Sacred Heart Review.

When the waiter brought the bill the farmer said: “This bill is more than I expected.”

The waiter replied: “You will find the things you ate all marked—ham, eggs, beans, potatoes, coffee, etcetera.”

“There, I knowed you was trying ter beat me; I never ate any etcetera.”—Sacred Heart Review.

A gentleman who had called to see Mr. B. found his little son, Frank, in the library, rubbing his eyes and gaping. “Sleepy?” he inquired.

“Um,” grunted Frank.

“I suppose you usually go to bed with the chickens?” smiled the visitor.

“No, I don't!” snapped Frank. “I have a little bed in my room all to myself.”—Sacred Heart Review.

Index to THE PUBLIC for the SEVENTEENTH VOLUME

COMPRISING NUMBERS 822 to 873, INCLUSIVE

The Figures Stand for Page Numbers of the Volume. The Classification Follows Geographical and Personal Lines as Closely as Possible.

ABYSSINIA, 13.

ADDRESSES, SERMONS and SPEECHES:

Bailey, Warren Worth—on amending the Alaskan railroad bill, 122.
Berkowitz, Rabbi Henry—at the funeral of Joseph Fels, 226.
Bigelow, Herbert S.—at the Singletax Conference, 136, 233; at the Joseph Fels memorial meeting, 448; on the Good Samaritan, 928.
Brewer, David J.—on militarism in Washington, 760.
Canning, A. P.—on Joseph Fels, 447.
Catt, Carrie Chapman—on the woman suffrage movement, 568.
Dillard, James H.—at the Southern Sociological Congress, 592.
Dunlop, Dave S.—on a Constitutional Convention, at Bloomington, Indiana, 872.
Foulke, Wm. Dudley—on a universal municipal need, 1170.
Garrison, Frank W.—on the land question, at Philadelphia, 473.
Garrison, Jr., Wm. Lloyd—on Joseph Fels, 445.
Gorgas, William C.—on economic causes of disease, at Cincinnati, 978.
Hall, Bolton—at conference of charities, in New York, 832.
Howe, Frederic C.—at funeral of Joseph Fels, 226.
Huerta, Victoriano—resignation, 705.
Hughes, George—on Joseph Fels, 446.
Kitchener, Horatio Herbert—on the European war, 852.
Krass, Rabbi Nathan—on Joseph Fels, 447.
Lane, Franklin K.—on the flag, 641.
Marshall, Catherine E.—on co-operation, at Bradford, 714.
Medeiros, Borges de—on singletax, before the Brazilian State Congress, 32.
Owen, Robert L.—on the Missouri tax amendment, 845.
Page, Walter Hines—on Panama, 274.
Pinchot, Amos—at Fels Fund conference, on municipal reform, 667.

Post, Alice Thacher—“The Social Unit,” 14.

Post, Louis F.—at funeral of Joseph Fels, 226; at Philadelphia Fels memorial meeting, 248; on industrial democracy, at Chicago, 903.

Found, Roscoe—on government, at Chicago, 844.

Roosevelt, Theodore—on tariff and trusts, 659; against peace treaties, 806.

Singletax Conference—address to the public, 78.

Steffens, Lincoln—at funeral of Joseph Fels, 227.

Tomkins, Calvin—on war and trade, at Baltimore, 1120.

Ward, John—on English army, in Commons, 347.

Wedgwood, Josiah—at Fels memorial meeting in Philadelphia, 248.

White, Bouck—after leaving New York prison, 1141.

Wilson, Woodrow—trust message to Congress, 80; Panama tolls message, 250; Mexican message, 391; at funeral of Vera Cruz marines, 471; at Philadelphia, on the Declaration of Independence, 657; emergency revenue message, 876; opening message to Congress, 1185.

AFRICA, 180, 303, 347, 348, 1062.

European war, 924, 946, 995, 1017, 1044, 1067, 1096, 1143, 1190, 1205, 1214.

Johannesburg mines strike, 59, 77, 85, 132, 302, 303, 347.

Land value taxation, 88, 418, 566.

Woman suffrage, 206.

AGRICULTURE and FORESTRY, 43, 556, 989, 990, 1059, 1069, 1094, 1157, 1208.

Agricultural extension bill, 153.

Agricultural Reckoning, The, 149.

Clayton anti-trust bill, 542, 560.

Culture and Agriculture, 180.

Farmers and taxation, 54, 56, 74, 130, 315, 367, 412, 627, 628, 1085, 1191.

Food Production of European Countries, 1180.

Forest control and taxation, 253, 693, 1118, 1191.

Pioneer Efficiency Expert, A, 349.

Rural credits, 57, 395, 491, 753, 1203.

ALBANIA, 206, 517, 565, 591, 639, 663, 676, 827, 852.

ARGENTINA, 32, 707, 807.

Land value taxation, 511.

Mediation between the United States and Mexico—see Mexico.

Peace treaty with United States, 805.

ART, 211, 559, 565.

ASTRONOMY, 901.

AUSTRALIA, 788.

Elections, 231, 272, 901, 1042.

European war, 898, 920, 998.

Land value taxation in South Australia, 272.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, 110, 206, 255, 565, 638, 655, 664, 688, 713.

European War:

Diplomacy, 664, 713, 730, 776, 777, 803, 852, 1095.

Military operations, 764, 777, 803, 827, 828, 852, 875, 898, 923, 945, 971, 995, 1017, 1043, 1064, 1095, 1142, 1165, 1189, 1212, 1231.

Social conditions, 828, 898, 920, 995, 1044.

AUTHORS of contributed and reprinted matter:

Alexander, Edward F., 921.

Anderson, F. F., 729.

Atkinson, George W., 200.

Atkinson, Will, 222, 950.

Auchmuty, A. C., 113.

Bard, Benztown, 1026.

Barker, Christine, 2, 1216.

Barker, Wesley E., 273.

Barry, John D., 17.

Batten, E. J., 66, 677, 822, 1049.

Bedichek, R., 400.

Beecher, Asher George, 1043.

Benton, Charles E., 999.

Bigelow, Herbert S., 136, 448.

Bingham, Millard F., 896.

Bode, Frank H., 127.

Borst, Richard Warner, 281, 349, 519, 667.