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# EDITORIAL

#### Opposed to Sugar-Coated Ship Subsidies.

Another encouraging sign of the times is seen in the change in public opinion on the question of Panama Canal tolls. When the bill was originally passed, levying tolls upon all shipping except our own, the dominant sentiment of the country was in favor of the discrimination, regardless of treaty obligations, or international comity. The bill was put through Congress, and was defended before and after its passage, in a way that gave small credit to the American sense of honor.

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The stand now taken by President Wilson in opposition to the exemption of American shipping, however, has brought out a surprisingly cordial response. A few papers and some men still protest. Some have suggested pressure from England and Japan as the reason for the President's position; but it is more charitable to suppose that his stand, like that of so many others who have had time for conscience-communion, is due to a desire to play fair in the international game. It is to be hoped the exemption will be stricken from the law before the first American ship passes through the Canal.

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s. c.

#### Rate-Raising Philosophy.

The railroads that are pleading the high cost of living as an excuse to be allowed to raise rates seem to have forgotten the famous epigram of railroad magnate James J. Hill: "The high cost of living is but the cost of high living." Mr. Hill's intent was to make it appear as though complaints concerning high prices were not justified. The remark was repeated and applauded by every upholder of and apologist for monopolistic institutions. But now the railroads themselves come, pleading the very thing which Hill denied, as a reason for laying new burdens on business. It would not be at all unjust to repeat the epigram to them. Recent exposures of rebating are alone sufficient to justify suspicion of extravagance. Moreover, this practice of rebating is one means by which trusts are created and the cost of living made high. While it is entirely wrong in most cases to define the high cost of living as did Mr. Hill, yet he seems to have been accurate enough as far as the railroads are concerned. The Interstate Commerce Commission should dismiss their appeal with the advice to consider well the wisdom of James J. Hill.

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Another unreasonable argument is the one that general prosperity awaits the increase in freight rates. If that be true, then a five per cent increase is much too small. It ought to be unlimited. The argument is not only unreasonable but imprudent. It is needless to say that the increase will not bring prosperity except to certain big interests. If prosperity should happen to come it will be in spite of the increase. But if, which is more probable, it does not come, then the falsity of the plea will be evident, and resulting public indignation may cost the roads dearly.

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If raising of railroad rates is what brings prosperity then there is another reason why railroads should not be privately controlled. The source of general prosperity should be in public hands. Otherwise railroad magnates must have it in their power to shut off prosperity at any time, as well as to bring it. The prosperity claim is dangerous as well as false and foolish. S. D.

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#### Congressman Bailey's Amendment.

An amendment to the Alaska government railway bill which ought to be promptly adopted was offered by Congressman Warren Worth Bailey of Pennsylvania on January 30. The amendment provides for redeeming the bonds issued to build the railway by the creation of a fund "into which shall be paid the proceeds of an annual tax on the value of land in Alaska, both publicly and privately owned, which shall be benefited by the construction and the operation of the railroad or railroads herein authorized." It further says that "the value of all improvements in or on the land being hereby specifically exempted from taxation as far as the Alaska railway fund is concerned."

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Congressman Bailey's proposition is exactly in line with ex-President Roosevelt's suggestion of an Alaskan policy in his "Confession of Faith." It is sound statesmanship. It eliminates from the bill its one objectionable feature by which sale of government land is authorized. Concerning this Mr. Bailey says:

If the railroads are to prove a benefit rather than a mistake, their mere building will create values equal to if not far greater than their cost. In the reclamation of arid lands and in the drainage of swamps we have applied a principle which seems to me quite as applicable to the development of Alaska. What I intend proposing to do is not dissimilar from what we do when we bring water to a rainless region; it is not dissimilar from what we do when we cut ditches and dig canals for the drainage of swamps. We have never-or, at least, we have not often-asked the people at large to bear the cost of such improvements. Instead, we almost invariably have said that those who derived the benefits should pay the cost. We have subjected the lands redeemed to a special assessment, this assessment being in proportion to benefits. In other words, we made one hand wash the other, and only those were required to contribute who derived a pecuniary advantage.

Just what the result will be of failure to adopt Mr. Bailey's suggestion is well shown in his address. It would be the same as has occurred in the rest of the United States, where much valuable land is withheld from use, much that is in use is not put to its best use, and where not half of the land of the country is contributing to the sum of production. It is as tightly locked against labor and enterprise as the land of Alaska under a stupid policy which confesses its impotency to deal with a great problem—the problem of opening opportunity without inviting monopoly.

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Congressmen and Senators should be urged by their constituents to support Mr. Bailey's amendment. Its adoption will not only make the proposed railroad an unmixed blessing to Alaska, but will prove the practicability of applying the policy of government ownership to the rest of the United States.

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#### S. D.

#### Why Trusts Are Flourishing.

Senator Cummins of Iowa called attention in the Senate on January 29 to the rise in price of trust stocks while "trust-busting" operations are under way. The rise is perfectly natural. Anything which assures to trusts a longer lease of predatory power must necessarily have a favorable effect on the value of their stocks. Since none of the "trust-busting" plans involve removal of underlying privileges from trusts, investors in trust stocks are quite justified in feeling confidence in

continuance of power to exact from consumers all that the traffic will bear. It is due Senator Cummins to say that he is the only member of the Senate who has made a serious attempt, during the life of the present Congress, to strike at trust privileges. He offered an amendment to the Underwood bill, while pending, to place all trust products on the free list. The adoption of that amendment would have destroyed all tariff privileges, at least. But it was voted down by a combination of Democrats and standpat Republicans. Now nothing more serious against the trusts is in prospect than a lot of suits under the Sherman law and enactment of additional laws to regulate, to prohibit, to restrict and to punish. Until the underlying privileges are seriously attacked, trusts will continue to flourish. S. D.

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#### Safety at Sea.

Must the world have another marine disaster, before Congress yields to the obvious? Press dispatches quote Mr. Webb Balsinger, Vice-President of the Carnegie Steel Company, as saying that on a recent trip of the Lusitania, when a fishing crew was to be rescued, "it took at least forty-five minutes to lower a boat from the deck, and fully half an hour more before it was thoroughly detached from the falls." Such an incident emphasizes the contention of Andrew Furuseth in the London Safety-at-sea conference that there should not only be life boats for all on board, but that each life boat should be manned by at least two able seamen—that is, two fully qualified sailors-who understand the language of the officers. Because the committee on life boats, of which Andrew Furuseth was a member, refused to accept this minimum, and on the contrary persisted in reporting "two boatmen who understand the language of an interpreter," he resigned. The report of the committee allows, and was intended to allow the employment of Lascars and Chinese crews under the command of European officers, whose commands must be transmitted through interpreters.

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It is needless to speculate upon the safety of the passengers on such a manned ship in the presence of disaster. And even when the provisions are applied to the trans-Atlantic liners that have so grudgingly increased the number of life boats, but insist upon manning them with porters, cooks, stewards, and bell-boys, the consequences may be no less serious. The life boat provisions of the LaFollette Seamen's bill, which has already passed the Senate, provides for the minimum requirement demanded by the seamen; and it should under no circumstances be surrendered. It does not require the employment of a great crew of idle seamen, as the shipowners pretend, but merely a higher grade of men in some branches of the service than are now employed. It will be no hardchip to the employers, because, applying to all alike, rates can be advanced a trifle if necessary to cover a living wage for a long abused calling. The LaFollette bill provides safety for the traveling public, and decent conditions for the seamen. It should not require another Titanic disaster to secure its passage through the House.

#### s. c.

#### The Jingoes' Political Economy.

Criticism of President Wilson's Mexican policy is based on the notion that protection of foreign investments is far more important than all efforts to reduce the tariff, abolish trusts, cut down the cost of living, raise wages, or bother with similar trifles at home. S. D.

#### Pennsylvania's Opportunity.

Senator Boies Penrose of Pennsylvania in opening his campaign for re-election, refers to the greatness of his State as a reason why he should be returned. Pennsylvania's greatness has not heretofore been evident in the quality of its United States Senators. That is one particular in which the State has an enormous amount of room to grow. Nothing will show more clearly true greatness in the State than its rejection, at the next election, of Boies Penrose and other servants of the privileged interests which have so long controlled the State.

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#### S. D.

#### Taxation in the District of Columbia.

A misstatement concerning the American Civic Association was made on page 74 of the Public. The Association was not formerly the League of American Municipalities, as was therein stated. A protest has come from Mr. Horace McFarland, its president, against the criticism of its opposition to Congressman Crisp's bill to put an end to the federal government's policy of bearing half the expense of local administration of the city of Washington. Mr. McFarland dwells largely on the fact that the people of Washington are denied selfgovernment, but comment was made on that in the editorial to which he refers. He does not say whether or not the Association would withdraw



its objections if self-government with universal suffrage should be granted.

Mr. McFarland holds that putting an end to the half-and-half system would double the rent of "every poor man living in the District of Columbia." He is mistaken. If rents could be raised, Washington landlords would not wait for the tax system to be changed to do it. Not only would rents not be raised, the tendency of the change would be to reduce them. Much of the land of the District is being held out of use by speculators. Doubling of the tax on this unused land would force some of these speculators to let it be built upon, thus increasing housing accommodations and tending to lower rents. If along with the change should come assessment reforms recommended by the George sub-committee, the taxes of these speculators would be even more than doubled, to the relief of the small home owner.

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Of course the federal government should contribute in proportion to the value of the land it is holding in the District. The value of its improvements should not be taxed, neither should the improvements of private individuals. Mr. McFarland says: "All that Washington needs is absolute justice." It won't get it as long as speculators are allowed to hold large tracts of valuable land out of use while thousands of its citizens are forced by high rents to herd in the slums. The Crisp bill will make it somewhat easier for the city to get justice. To get it entirely the city must have local self-government, with universal suffrage and taxation of land values as its sole revenue basis. The American Civic Association is obstructing justice to Washington. S. D.

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#### Taxation in Cincinnati.

"None so blind as those that will not see," applies to the individuals still endeavoring to find out how to get all taxable personal property on the tax duplicate. Cincinnati's Tax Board seems to be made up of such men. They went to the trouble to call a meeting of that city's most prominent—and in their opinion, most wise—business men. There appeared, according to the Times-Star of January 30, bank presidents, corporation heads, representatives of commercial organizations, etc. There were plenty of suggestions offered, but none that had not long ago proven a failure, or that offered any ground for confidence in its success. In this whole assemblage there does not seem to have been a single individual sufficiently up-to-date to know that the question has been quite satisfactorily solved in Houston, There personal property is equally as-Texas. sessed in the only way that it can be done. It is not assessed at all-a back number constitution to the contrary notwithstanding. Among those present was Mr. Charles P. Taft, who is financially interested in two Texas towns, Taft and Sinton. These towns are quite close to Corpus Christi, one of the cities preparing to follow Houston's lead. If Mr. Taft has not yet heard of the Houston system, he probably will when Corpus Christi begins attracting population from his own towns.

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But Mr. Taft allowed it to be known that he has heard of some progressive work. He has heard of Herbert S. Bigelow and he took advantage of the tax discussion to pay unintentional tribute to the effectiveness of Mr. Bigelow's work. He bewailed the fact that attacks on a stolen street railway franchise has resulted in depressing the stock of the corporation holding it. So one result of Mr. Bigelow's work has clearly been a lessening of confidence in franchises acquired as was Cincinnati's fifty-year street railway franchise. That is surely a distant public gain to Cincinnati, even if it is true, as Mr. Taft further bewailed, that the agitators "have not a cent's worth of property in Cincinnati." S. D.

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#### The Profits of Charity.

Fifteen million dollars is the estimated annual amount paid in Chicago for charity. The amount looks big. But if it were not paid it would become necessary to stop the annual appropriation by private individuals of about five times that amount of socially created rental values of Chicago land, to say nothing of the tribute levied on Chicago labor by monopolies, whose predatory power is based on outside privileges. Is the fifteen million dollars a poor investment? Surely not for those who want Privilege to continue.

S. D.

## An Explanation Due.

Some day there will be a Congressional investigation of the manner in which telegraphic news is furnished the daily papers. It too often happens that after a conscientious correspondent has sent in a correct report it appears in type in an unrecognizable form. For instance, at the recent

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Singletax conference in Washington, the eastern correspondent of the Portland Oregonian went to considerable trouble to secure accurate information of all that took place. Having secured the information he presumably sent in an account in accordance with what he had learned. Yet, as it appeared in the Oregonian, it contained statements that the correspondent could surely not have included therein. The Oregonian seems to owe to its correspondent a public exoneration of all blame for the appearance of these misstatements, and to its readers an explanation of the substitution of false reports for correct ones. Perhaps this will appear in an early issue. S. D.

#### A Judge Who Is a Real Democrat.

For many years progressives throughout the country have known of Chief Justice Walter Clark of North Carolina, and have known him to be one of themselves. It was no surprise, therefore, to note that in his speech on January 27, to a meeting of judges in New York City, he gave his hearers some badly needed instruction in democracy. Associated press reports tell that he showed how the courts have wrongfully seized the power to nullify legislative acts, and that he warned them against the consequences of attempting to dominate the government. It was the right thing said in the right place. It is not easy to tell ones own colleagues unwelcome truths in public, but Justice Clark proved equal to the occasion. Although he has many previous democratic utterances to his credit, it required an occasion of this kind to force the Associated Press to spread them. North Carolina is to be congratulated on the unique distinction of possessing a chief justice who is an able and fearless democrat. S. D.

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## Reactionaries Not Wanted as Judges.

An adherent of Roger Sullivan is not the kind of material from which a federal judge should be made. Sullivan's connection with a gas monopoly and his reactionary position generally, indicate the kind of judge one of his followers would be. So in filling the existing vacancy in Chicago, President Wilson will avoid one mistake if he fails to notice the candidacy of Martin M. Gridley. There are others in the field whose appointment would probably be as great an error, as well as one or two whose selection would be creditable; but Gridley's unfitness is the most conspicuous.

S. D.

#### Men and Women in Chicago.

Chicago has thought up a new way of being bigger than New York. She will register her women, by suasion, by force, by hundreds of thousands, now or next month, and behold, her polling list shall be longer than America's humbled metropolis can show. There has been more fun in Chicago in the last few weeks than in all the other playful young cities of the nation together. Yet never has Chicago been more in earnest. If anywhere in this big modern world the women have been more heartily and universally welcomed into actual political life, they must somewhere have received a very warm welcome indeed. Various and not always admirable motives, to be sure, move behind the scenes. But behind the scenes is not the place to go just now. All Chicago is before the curtain and the world is looking on.

More and more swiftly these past few weeks and months have all factions and temperaments of Chicago men inclined to look upon the women as actually fellow-citizens and promptly to treat them accordingly. Several ward party organizations have asked the women to join them; an old reform association-so old that it is on the verge of respectability-has sent out invitations to women's organizations to become members; there has been a noticeable movement toward binding closer the already cordial co-operation of men and women in organized civic work; women's meetings, women's opinions, women's plans have grown accustomed to the front page and even the right-hand column of the city newspapers.

The men of Chicago-reporter, priest, politician and plain citizen-have done this thing. Why? Because the men and women of Chicago have always really been comrades. Because the city's true men have always turned in time of need to a group of civic-minded women, women of high ideals and forceful common sense, who had learned by patient practice how to reconcile individual differences and to work together-have come to these women and found them eager to serve their city. Because through all the brief, busy life of Chicago her women have been accustomed to receive true counsel and cordial co-operation, both public and private, in their local civic ventures, from men who could help to build a democratic nation while they watched over their own city and kept her uncrystallized into caste, unspoiled by prosperity, ready for freedom. A. L. G.

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## ROOSEVELT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS DEMOCRACY.

In the Hibbert Journal last October there was an article by Mr. Roosevelt on the Progressive Party. The article contained nothing that was new in regard to the policies of the party, but it presented the present mind of its author and of the party in a rather captivating way, and was therefore well worth reading. Its tone was in most parts surprisingly irenic. But when we read the article carefully and with the light of other statements, we see how radically different, in spite of phrases, Mr. Roosevelt's mind is from the really democratic mind. Brushing aside all phrases and explanations, we shall find that the Roosevelt mind runs to the ideal of control, whereas the democratic mind runs to the ideal of freedom. The Roosevelt mind still harbors the ancient and honorable aristocratic idea of beneficent protection. The democratic mind looks forward to the oncoming ideas of justice and equality, which would abolish the need of protection.

In reading this pronunciamento of the father of the new party we ought to take stock of one fact. We ought to realize that the people, the plain folks, those who ought to rule, those whom Lincoln and all real democrats have trusted and whom real demoncrats will trust to the end,—that the plain people, in spite of the trust in them, are always in danger of being misled by words. This is natural and inevitable. We are human; we are not expecting to be fooled, and so we are the more easily fooled. As Lincoln said, we do not stay fooled, but we can be fooled for a time.

Now, there has not appeared in public life in a long while any man more adapted for fooling the people by words than Mr. Roosevelt. Not that he means wrong or harm. On the contrary, we may surely believe that he means well. The trouble with Mr. Roosevelt's leadership appears to me to be that he is so much more a man of words than a man of thought. His most faithful admirers could hardly maintain that he is a man of original thought. Throughout his career he seems to have been more an echo, an echo louder, to be sure, than the original voice, still an echo of the suggestions and initiative of others. During his administration he fathered many good movements, conservation, child-saving and numerous schemes advocated by sociological students, but all of these movements came at bottom from others who used his ready influence. It is to his credit that he could thus be used, but the point is that these movements, to which his name became attached, were not really from him. He was always ready to take a hand in anything which the men and women of so-called advanced thought wished to push forward, but he never originated any momentous social or economic question.

No, Mr. Roosevelt is not an independent thinker. His present conglomerate "policies" show this. There is much that is good, but the lurking spirit is, from the democratic viewpoint, inherently wrong. The danger lies in the fact that while Mr. Roosevelt sounds democratic he is not so, however much he may think that he is so. He uses phrases beautifully. Some one has said that he has risen on proverbs. Certainly he knows how to use the commonplace generalities of popular rights in a most effective way. But as to having thought out or felt the essential and inherent principles of democracy, it simply is not in his nature. He may talk of the "square deal," but he has given no evidence that he knows what it means. He is by birth and training aristocratic, by nature imperialistic, and he has not worked away from either of these characteristics. The democratic mind does not believe in "strong" government, even if it seems to come from the people themselves. It believes in interfering as little as possible with local self-government, and, further, as little as possible with individual and personal activities. The democratic ideal is not to boss and regulate activities by external control, but to adjust things so that external control will not be needed. The two ideals are radically opposed. In words, in the superficial appearance of the ends in view, there may be much similarity, so that even the elect might be deceived, but at the bottom there is a world-wide difference. Roosevelt represents, under modern and alluring guise, it is true, but still represents the old feudal ideas of control and protection. The democratic mind has for its ideals, first, justice, with its safeguarding of equal opportunity, and then freedom. The democratic mind pleads that this program be tried, this simple program of justice and freedom, which never has been tried. If real democracy is ever to triumph it must be tried, and it can be tried only by our acceptance of the teachings of Thomas Jefferson and Henry George.

#### JAMES H. DILLARD.

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Small boy's biography of Elijah: There was a man named Elijah. He had some bears and he lived in a cave. Some boys tormented him. He said: "If you keep on throwing stones at me, I'll turn the bears on you and they'll eat you up. And they did and he did and the bears did.—Everybody's Magazine.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

#### MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP CARRIES SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

Springfield, Ill., January 28.

The voters of Springfield\* endorsed by 735 majority at yesterday's initiative election the proposition of Commissioner Willis J. Spaulding to consolidate the local municipally owned electric light and water plants. The proposition was fought by the local private electric corporation. The total vote was about 11,000, of which 3,000 were cast by women. The majority independent of the women's vote was 48. Mr. Spaulding issued the following public statement in comment:

This was peculiarly a people's victory. The large vote polled for the consolidation is an expression of the determination of the individual voter to analyze for himself local municipal questions and to cast his ballot in accordance with his own judgment regardless of the amount of pressure that may be brought to cloud the issue or corrupt civic morals. When people do their own thinking all danger to popular self-government is swept aside and this election has clearly demonstrated that the citizens of Springfield are capable of forming and expressing their own opinions. The result in this instance is particularly gratifying because we have the promise of both Commissioners Hamilton and Davidson to abide by the decision at the polls and not to hamper the program by any obstacles whatsoever.

The supporters of the consolidation were without any organization whatever and did not have a single paid worker nor a hired vehicle for hauling voters to the polls. At many polling places we had no workers at all and frequently our friends who wished to vote by affidavit could find no one convenient to swear in their votes and did not vote at all. We placed complete reliance in the merits of our proposition, and to get our facts before the voters we depended almost entirely upon the Illinois State Register which, with splendid courage and untiring vigor, did not hesitate to take a stand on the side of the city against Special Privilege. Not many citizens realize what this means. As a penalty for such a stand newspapers have been crushed financially by the power of corporations and their allied interests. It is much easier for a newspaper to be on the side of monopoly than against it.

Opposing us was a private corporation which availed itself of all the advantages that money could buy. Their first move to fool the people in a brazen campaign of signed newspaper advertisements, not only miscarried to such an extent that they soon abandoned them; but they also disproved their later equally brazen assertions of indifference to the outcome. The fact is they left no stone unturned—their influence was seen on every hand. Their Mr. Mackie was expected to defeat this measure at any cost, for they recognized that this plan of developing our municipal plant means REAL competition of a nature that will compel fair rates not only for Springfield but for other cities as well. While it was inclined to

\*See Public of January 16 at page 62.

treat the movement lightly at the start, for the past ten days it has realized it was really in a fight for its life.

It attempted to befog the voters with all kinds of misinformation. They were made to believe that a large bond issue was about to be made and that taxes would be higher, while as a matter of fact the city is bonded to the limit already and the city tax rate has been \$1.20 for the past twenty years or more, and we could not increase it because that is the legal limit, except to the extent of the street and bridge tax which was levied last year and which had nothing whatever to do with the generator proposition. Nevertheless, many honest people were deliberately made to believe that there was to be a great increase in taxes. Anonymous circulars were sent to the saloon keepers advising them that a vote "Yes" was a vote for local option, and at several polling places workers were appealing to prejudice with that argument. Attempts were made to destroy the votes of women who favored the combination by advising them to write their names upon the ballots. Anonymous circulars signed "A School Teacher" were sent to the teachers of the city suggesting that if our proposition carried money for improving the schools would not be available and that teachers' salaries might be cut. The Corporations had paid workers at every polling place, and frequently one or more of their employes. They had plenty of conveyances and diligently rounded up the voters and swore them in. Money not only seemed to be plentiful, but seemed to be freely used. The Evening News of course carried on a campaign of slander, but it has become so thoroughly known as a corporation mouthpiece that I do not think its influence counted for much. Dick Sullivan took a prominent part as an active worker at the polls, and the statement concerning taxes sent out by Edmands proved a powerful aid to the Utilities Company.

When the overwhelming odds against the proposition are considered, it can fairly be claimed to be a splendid victory. The sentiment which is strongly in evidence in favor of the general principle of municipal ownership has been growing for years, not only here but everywhere. The corporation and their supporters may delay the movement temporarily, but they can no more prevent it than they can prevent the tides of the ocean. A good many have complained that our project is too small, but anyhow, we are making a very substantial beginning along the right lines, and when we get started we can grow as rapidly as the people are willing.

The fact that the proposition had a majority independent of women's vote shuts off any danger of interference by the Supreme Court. FRANK H. EODE.

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## © © © EDWIN GINN.

Boston, January 30.

At a stated meeting of the Executive Committee of the Anti-Imperialist League held this day it was voted:

That the Executive Committee of the Anti-Imperialist League loses Edwin Ginn\* from a long mem-

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\*See this Public, page 134.

bership with great sorrow. His eminently practical idealism was a constant support in the definite work of the League for a definite object. In the fulfillment of this he never doubted through the long and discouraging campaign for Philippine independence and for the promotion of the cause of peace so near his generous heart, through the change of the archipelago from its dangerous and provocative condition into a status of neutralized autonomy. Mr. Ginn's recent congratulations upon the present hopeful condition of our cause are an encouragement for its prosecution and his name is added to the long roll of good citizenship by which our annals are illustrated.

That the resolution with the condolence of the committee be communicated to the family of Mr. Ginn.

(Signed)

MOORFIELD STOREY, President. ERVING WINSLOW, Secretary.

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## MEXICAN CONSTITUTIONALISTS AND THE LAND QUESTION.

#### From an American in a Responsible Public Position.

I have just returned from a trip through part of the State of Sinaloa, in Mexico, where I met a number of the Constitutionalist army officers and civil officials, many of whom spoke English. I talked with half a dozen or more of them and was surprised to find them such an intelligent lot of men, and so thoroughly in earnest, with such a unanimity of opinion and integrity of purpose, and all so imbued with the fundamental principle that the Mexican trouble is a labor trouble, which can be solved only by the settlement of the land question. I was also surprised to find what clear ideas they have as to the necessity of taxing the land, especially the unused land.

I spoke to several about Henry George's works and all seemed interested and wanted to know where they could be gotten. I gave them the address of The Public and the names of the books to write for.

There is no doubt in my mind that there has been a great awakening among the people since the beginning of the Madero revolution and that a Spanishspeaking Singletaxer could accomplish wonders in the Northern States of Mexico among the Constitutionalist forces. They see clearly the trouble but are hazy as to the best methods to produce the desired results:—breaking up the immense land holdings and enabling the common people to cultivate the now idle lands and reap the benefits of their own labor.

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Wherever man oppresses man Beneath Thy liberal sun, O God! be there Thine arm made bare, Thy righteous will be done. —John Hay.

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The great man is he who does original things in a conventional way.—Benjamin Jowett.

# **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, February 3, 1914.

#### Government Ownership of Wire Lines.

Postmaster General Burleson submitted to the Senate on January 31 the recommendation of the departmental committee appointed by him to investigate the practicability of government ownership of telegraphs and telephones. The committee recommends:

First: That Congress declare a government monopoly over all telegraph, telephone, and radio communication and such other means for the transmission of intelligence as may hereafter develop.

Second: That Congress acquire by purchase at appraised value the commercial telephone net work, except the farmer lines.

Third: That Congress authorize the postmaster general to issue, in his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe, revocable licenses for the operation by private individuals, associations, companies and corporations, of the telegraph service and such parts of the telephone service as may not be acquired by the government.

The committee estimates the cost of existing lines at \$900,000,000, but says in addition:

The cost to the government would be less than the appraised value, since it would be undesirable for the government to purchase the real estate holdings of the companies. Exchanges could be leased until accommodations could be provided in the postoffices and stations.

[See vol. xvi, p. 1228.]

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#### Investigation of Transportation Abuses.

Indictments for rebating were found by the federal grand jury at Chicago on January 31, against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the . Panhandle, or Pittsburgh, Chicago and St. Louis Railway Company, the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company and Swift & Co., the stockvards packers. The indictments are against the corporations only, and mention no individuals. The indictment charges Swift and Co. with having obtained concessions from the Ann Arbor and the Northwestern railroads on carload shipments of beef from Chicago to points in Michigan. The rate that should have been charged was 47 cents on 100 pounds. The rate said to have been actually charged was 271/2 cents on 100 pounds. The Ann Arbor road was not indicted, since it operates outside of the Chicago federal district. The Pennsylvania railroad is charged with granting rebates of two dollars a car on grain shipments to a grain



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#### company and a flour mill concern. The Chicago and Northwestern is charged with favoring a coal concern. [See current volume, page 106.]

Evidence regarding operation of private refrigerator car lines is still being taken for the Interstate Commerce Commission at Chicago by Special Examiner, W. E. Settle. On January 27. Mr. E. G. Davies, a consignee of fruits and vegetables. testified that the Armour car lines charged \$72 for icing a car between Jacksonville, Florida. and Chicago, while if allowed to ice it themselves the expense to shippers would only be \$36. The Central Fruit Dispatch, he said, charged \$40 for icing a car from New Orleans to Chicago, which could be done for less than \$20.. He also testified as to discrimination in rates. A shipment of 400 hampers of lettuce from Chicago to Jacksonville, Florida, would cost in refrigerator cars \$54.32. But the same shipment from Jacksonville to Chicago would cost \$226. On January 28, Mr. H. B. Kooser, of the American Refrigerator Transit Company, which operates over the Gould lines, admitted that his company frequently ordered cars returned empty, although plenty of freight was waiting for them. He denied being a common carrier, but on further questioning admitted that officers of his corporation rode on passes, an illegal act if the company should not be a common carrier. Testimony favoring the car lines was given on January 29 by J. W. Archbald of Jacksonville, Florida, president of the Dairy Shippers' Dispatch, who claimed that these roads encouraged the small farmer. Complaints against the service of the Armour car lines were made on the same day by C. R. Hillyer, representing the Atlantic Fruit Distributors. [See current volume, page 106.]

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The Inter-State Commerce Commission on January 27, at Washington, held illegal the railroad practice of giving "allowances" to great industrial plants, owning and operating plant railways in connection with their establishments. This practice the Commission declared has lessened railroad revenue to the amount of at least \$15,000,000 a year. Among the concerns receiving such favors are a number of plants owned by the Steel Trust. In many places the cash revenue received by these plants from this practice exceeded the entire cost of operations. In comment the Commission said:

Before they may fairly ask the general public to share further in carrying their burdens, it is manifest that the railroads must themselves properly conserve their sources of revenue by making every service performed contribute reasonably to their earnings.

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Protests against the proposed five per cent increase in freight rates were made to the InterState Commerce Commission on January 27 by Eastern shippers of natural ice. The service given they said is poor and costly, and the business can not stand the advance. One dealer, Joseph Homer of Grand Rapids, Michigan, testified that he had been forced by the Pere Marquette railroad into purchase of one of its plants on threat of competition in case he refused. [See current volume, page 106.]

Judge Smith McPherson of the federal district court at Kansas City, Missouri, dissolved his injunction against the attorney general of the state, John T. Barker, preventing him from suing to recover \$24,000,000 excess freight and passenger charges made by railroads while rate cases were in litigation. This was in obedience to a mandate of the Supreme Court. Railroad attorneys asked Judge Smith to put his dissolution order in language that would permit an appeal to the Circuit Court or Supreme Court. The judge has taken the matter under advisement. [See current volume, page 62.]

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Whether Chicago packers control meat shipments from Argentine is to be investigated by federal attorney general McReynolds. On January 28 the packers refused to produce the information demanded. The steamship companies had previously taken the same position. What action, if any, will next be taken has not yet been disclosed.

#### Civil Government for Panama Canal Zone.

President Wilson signed an executive order on the 27th, setting up civil government in the Canal Zone, to take effect April 1st. Colonel George W. Goethals, the engineer in charge, is named as the first civil governor. The President's order creates the following departments: Operation and maintenance, purchasing department, supply department, accounting department, health department, and an executive secretary. Colonel Goethals is said to have desired the appointment as first governor in order that he might select the 2,500 permanent employes from among the men he has come to know during his long labors on the canal. The governor's salary will be \$10,000 a vear. As Colonel Goethals now receives \$15,000, a bill has been introduced in Congress to raise the governor's salary to the same amount. [See current volume, page 109.]



Colonel William Crawford Gorgas, who as Chief Sanitary Officer of the Canal Zone, achieved such remarkable results that he was engaged last August to undertake a similar work in the Rand mining region, South Africa, has been advanced

to the rank of Surgeon General of the United States Army. [See vol. xvi., p. 804.]

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#### Shortage in Meat Supply.

An insufficiency to the extent of 18,000,000 in the supply of meat animals in proportion to demand in the United States since 1910 is disclosed in a statement issued on February 1 by the Department of Agriculture. The reasons given are as follows:

(1) The encroachment of farms upon the range territory. (2) The lack of a proper range leasing law. (3) The shortage in the corn and forage crop due to the severe drought in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma in 1913. (4) The increase in the value of land and the increased cost of labor and stock feed. (5) The decline in stock raising on farms in the East and South. (6) The temptation to sell live stock at the prevailing high prices rather than to continue to carry them with high priced stock feed. (7) Enormous losses from hog cholera. (8) The competition of higher prices for other farm products.

[See vol. xvi, p. 950.]

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#### Suffragists at Washington.

By a tie vote on January 24 the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives failed to bring in a report favorable to the creation of a standing committee of the House on Woman Suffrage. Two Republicans, Messrs. Lenroot of Wisconsin and Campbell of Kentucky, one Progressive, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, and one Democrat, Mr. Foster of Illinois-voted for a favorable report, and four Democrats, Messrs. Hardwick of Georgia, Pou of North Carolina, Cantrill of Kentucky, and Garrett of Tennessee, voted against it. A motion that the resolution for a woman suffrage committee be reported to the House without recommendation from the Rules Committee was postponed by that committee until its next meeting. On February 3, the House Democrats in caucus decided against a woman suffrage committee, declaring by a vote of 123 to 57: "That it is the sense of the caucus that the question of woman suffrage is a State and not a national question."

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On January 24 the Congressional Union—an independent group of woman suffragists whose reason for existence is to campaign for a Federal woman suffrage amendment—made announcement that its policy was "to ask for a woman suffrage constitutional amendment from the party in power in Congress and to hold them responsible for their answer to this request." Following close upon this declaration was reported the application for membership in the Union of Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont—whose advocacy of militant suffrage methods is well known—and of Mrs. Ella S. Stewart, a prominent Illinois suffragist, and the resignation from the Union—stating that declaration as her reason—of Mrs. McLennan, one of its leaders. To this Congressional Union's policy of "opposition to the party in power" the Congressional Committee of the National Woman's Suffrage Association is distinctly averse. The chairman of this committee, Mrs. Medill McCormick, sent the following letter to President Wilson on the 28th:

In view of the fact that the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage has publicly announced a policy contemplating an attack upon the Democratic party as a whole, and fearing lest this small group of suffragists acting under un-American and militant methods prejudice our cause, will you permit us to make clear that our organization, the National American Woman Suffrage Association, being strictly nonpartisan, emphatically condemns this policy? We recognize that there are suffragists in all parties, that all parties have contributed to suffrage in ten States, and that all parties will in the near future write the principles of suffrage into nation-wide law. We oppose no party as a whole because a portion of its members cannot be counted among our legislative supporters.

Miss Lucy Burns, vice-chairman of the Congressional Union, in a letter to President Wilson next day is reported as disclaiming any intention on the part of her organization to attack the Democratic Party. [See current volume, page 35.]

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On Monday, the 2nd, there was a suffrage demonstration under the auspices of the Congressional Union. Four hundred working women from ten different States gathered in Washington and marched to the White House where they were received by the President, who, in response to their request that he lend his support to the cause of woman suffrage, repeated in substance his reply to the suffragists who called upon him last December: "I have already explained," the President is reported as saying,-"because I felt obliged to explain—the limitations that are laid upon me as the leader of a party. Until the party as such has considered a matter of this supreme importance, and taken its position. I am not at liberty to speak as an individual, for I am not an individual. . . . All I can say to you is that the strength of your agitation is bound to make a profound impression upon any party." [See vol. xvi, p. 1185.]

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#### Another Ocean Disaster.

The Old Dominion liner, Monroe, while twenty miles from Norfolk, Virginia, in the early morning of January 30, was struck by the Merchants' and Miners' liner Nantucket, and immediately sank. Nineteen passengers and twenty-two of the crew were lost. Thirty-nine passengers and sixty



of the crew were saved. Captain Johnson of the Monroe and all of his officers but one, were among the saved. At the time the collision took place the passengers were asleep in their berths. Reported interviews with the rescued indicate that discipline was not what it should have been. With the exception of the wireless operator and one or two seamen, none of the crew seemed prepared to act in such an emergency. The survivors were taken to Norfolk on board the Nantucket.

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A Federal investigation of the disaster was commenced on January 31, by Captain Robert E. Tapley of the Steamship Inspection Service, but the testimony will not be made public for several days. In the meantime a suit for one million dollars damages was filed on January 31, in the United States District Court at Norfolk, by Captain Johnson of the Monroe against the Nantucket, on the alleged ground that the disaster was due to carelessness of the latter vessel.

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#### Tax Reform Happenings.

A banquet of the New York Society to Lower Rents and Reduce Taxes on Homes on January 31 numbered among its attendants twenty-six members of the legislature. Among the speakers were City Chamberlain Bruere, representing Mayor Mitchel, Tenement House Commissioner John J. Murphy, Mrs. M. Simkovitch, representing various settlement societies, Walter L. Durack, president of the League of Savings and Loan Associations. Amos Pinchot, Abraham Gruber, Charles T. Root and Frederic C. Leubuscher. John J. Hopper, Register of New York County, presided. A letter was read from Governor Martin Glynn commending the object of the society to reduce taxes on improvements and increase them on land values at the rate of ten per cent a year. In addressing the assemblage President Leubuscher, of the society, referred to the number of unemployed in New York City estimated by the Mayor at 300,000. He called attention to the thousands of vacant lots in the city and vacant acres in the State, the opening of which to labor would solve the unemployed problem. Yet the only remedies actually suggested for unemployment were charity and palliatives. The tax books of the city showed a few years ago that eight families, estates and corporations own one-nineteenth of the land of Manhattan, and about one-twenty-fifth of the assessed land of Greater New York; twenty-three families, estates and corporations own one-ninth of the Bronx, fifty-seven families, estates and corporations own one-sixth of Richmond borough. The Astor estate owns 500 acres of unimproved Bronx land on which it has a large sign reading ,"Astor Estate. Not For Sale." During the past ten years land values in the city had increased at the

rate of \$150,000,000 a year. The ground rent of the city is about \$300,000,000 a year. If this \$300,000,000 would all be taken for public expenses, \$190,000,000 would suffice to carry on the government, leaving more than \$100,000,000 a year to build subways and perform similar work. The Astors and other large land owners would be obliged either to improve their lots or let others do so. The demand for labor would be so great that the city would have to call on the rest of the State, with the result that wages would rise and production could be more cheaply carried on. But the society is not revolutionary and only recommends a mild step in that direction. It only asks an increase of \$20,000,000 in taxes on land values, and does not ask it at once but only about four million a year for five years. Taxes on buildings will be accordingly reduced, thus encouraging instead of discouraging the erection of more buildings, and the employment of more men and women. With more buildings there will be greater competition for tenants and rents will be reduced, while more employment will cause increased wages. [See vol. xvi, p. 986, 1113.]

A State conference on taxation will be held at the Indiana State University at Bloomington on February 5 and 6. Governor Ralston will preside. Invitations to participate include all interested in the subject. A number of authorities on taxation of national fame will speak, including Lawson Purdy of the New York City Tax Department.

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#### The New Voters of Chicago.

The women's organizations of Chicago have taken very active part in the preliminary campaign for the aldermanic elections on April 7, and for the preceding primaries. Their immediate object has been to get the women to register as voters on February 3. House-to-house canvasses covering many of the wards have been conducted, and numerous local meetings held. On Sunday afternoon, February 1, these efforts culminated in an enormous "Registration Rally." Four thousand persons filled the Auditorium, 2,500 attended overflow meetings and many hundreds more were turned away. Jane Addams presided, presenting fifteen speakers in two hours, among them being Catherine Waugh McCulloch, Ella Flagg Young, Margaret Haley, Sophonisba Breckinridge, Mrs. Joseph T. Bowen, Mrs. Raymond Robins, Mrs. Grace Wilbur Trout, Mrs. Harriet Taylor Treadwell and Mrs. George Bass. Father Ross, Catholic suffragist, Anthony Czarnecki, election commissioner, and Judge Joseph Uhlir were among the men who spoke. The affair was strictly non-partisan. All the aldermen of the city had been invited to be present, but only nine were reported as occupying seats on the platform. The



spectacular parts of the program were a roll-call of wards—the ward with the greatest number of women present being given a prize flag—and the singing of "Illinois," with its added verse written for the new voters by Miss Addams.

> Through the world the news is ringing, Illinois! Illinois! Hear thy daughters gladly singing, Illinois! Illinois! By the word of thy command, Citizens at last they stand; Honor to thy heart and hand, Illinois! Honor to thy heart and hand, Illinois!

On Registration day, the names of 153,897 women were added to the Chicago voting lists. [See vol. xvi, pp. 636, 1094, 1162, 1209; current volume, pages 11, 110.]

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At the polls, 750 out of the 7,000 precinct judges and clerks of election were women, they having been duly appointed, and instructed in their duties by the election commissioners; and 3,000 more women had been certified as watchers and challengers.

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Several women have announced themselves as candidates for aldermanic nominations, one, Miss Marion Drake, having been endorsed by the Progressive Party organization of her ward, the First, as its candidate against the present incumbent, "Bathhouse John" Coughlin.

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#### The Labor War.

Charges and denials of personal misconduct marked the proceedings of the United Mine Workers' convention on January 30 and 31 at Indianapolis. This related to a discussion of the attitude toward the striking miners of the American Federation of Labor. The federation was criticized by Charles A. Moyer and other speakers for refusing to levy an assessment to help the strikers. President Samuel Gompers, of the federation, replied, showing the federation to be in no position to take such action. It was in the course of this discussion that the wrangling over personal matters took place. On January 31 United States Senator John W. Kern of Indiana addressed the convention, saying he brought "a message of good will from members of both sides of the United States Senate, from that stalwart fighter for liberty, Jim Martine; Henry Ashurst, William E. Borah, W. S. Kenyon and others." He said efforts were being made to influence Congressmen into hostility toward organized labor. He told of what had been done to prevent investigation of the West Virginia strike and said that that investigation had disclosed facts, such as the illegal arrest and trial of "Mother" Jones, which the news agencies had suppressed. A vote of

thanks wastendered Senator Kern at the conclusion of his address. On February 2 the convention ordered the various districts to levy assessments for the benefit of the Michigan copper mine strikers. [See current volume, page 108.]

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The House of Representatives, by a vote of 151 to 15, on January 27 adopted Congressman Keating's resolution for an investigation of the strike situation in Colorado and Michigan. The subjects of inquiry specified in the resolution are as follows:

Whether the postal service is interfered with.

Whether the immigration laws are being violated. Whether citizens have been arrested and tried contrary to the Constitution of laws of the United States.

Whether conditions have been caused by agreements and combinations contrary to law for controlling the production, sale and transportation of coal or copper.

Whether arms and ammunition have been shipped into the fields for the purpose of excluding the products of the mines from competitive markets in interstate trade.

Whether peonage exists or has been maintained.

If these conditions, or any of them, exist, what causes led up to them.

Congressman Kelly of Michigan led the opposition to the investigation. [See current volume, page 108.]

The trial of six deputy sheriffs at Houghton, Michigan, charged with murder on August 14 of two copper mine strikers at Painesdale, was set for February 2. When the cases were called only five responded. All six had been under \$10,000 bail each, and one-half the bond of the missing prisoner, Thomas Raleigh, was declared forfeited. There are two charges of murder against each of the prisoners which is the reason why only one half of the bond was forfeited. The other prisoners announced themselves ready for trial. [See volume xvi, page 804; current volume, page 108.]

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#### South African Labor Troubles.

The South African Government has followed up its summary action in proclaiming martial law and arresting strikers by deporting ten of the principle labor leaders, including President Watson and General Secretary Bain of the Trades Federation. The men were taken from Transvaal to Natal on the 27th under a strong guard, and put aboard a steamer that will make no stop until it reaches England. [See current volume, page 85.]

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This drastic remedy of General Botha for labor troubles has produced a sharp division in public sentiment, both in South Africa, and in Eng-

land. Some, fearing the appeals to force made by some of the labor leaders, welcome the resort to the methods of Paul Kruger. Others, deprecating a return to Boer methods, fear that in re-establishing order, liberty has been crushed. The Boer sentiment at present is in the ascendent.

# English Affairs.

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The question of naval estimates continues to occupy a large share of public attention, partly because of its intrinsic importance, but more because of the efforts of the opposition press to embarrass the Administration. Opposed to Mr. Churchill's naval demands is the active and aggressive campaign of the "Little Navyities," who are to hold meetings throughout the country in behalf of the reduction of armaments. John Burns has graphically put the matter before the public in the statement that the expenditures for poor relief in the past eighty years amount to less than the cost of the army and navy for the past ten years, and less than the present national debt of \$3,527,270,000. [See current volume, page 108.]

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The labor question continues to bulk large in the public mind. Reports cabled of the annual labor conference at Glasgow indicate dissatisfaction of the delegates with the Labor Party's policy in Parliament. Critics charged that Labor members of Parliament "became demoralized by contact with the luxurious ways of legislators," and that "their original enthusiasm for the cause of the people had been ruined by comfortable environment." All differences, however, gave way before the unanimous condemnation of the action of the South African authorities in deporting the leaders of the strikers. A few of the more conservative leaders at the conference appreciated the provocation of Premier Botha in the lawless means adopted by the strikers, but all considered his summary action unwarranted.

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#### Mexico and the United States.

Arrests for participation in an alleged plot against President Huerta continued through the week, but no executions have taken place, and some of the men arrested have been set at liberty. Though rumors of the President's resignation, flight, and the collapse of his government continue to burden the press dispatches, there are few definite changes to be noted in the situation during the past few weeks. He flippantly boasts that he can keep off domestic foes, and the United States will prevent foreign creditors from using force in collecting their bills against his government. [See current volume, page 108.]

General Villa has advanced his army of 12,000 men to a position north of Torreon. The General himself has returned to Chihuahua to attend to administration affairs, after which he will take command of the campaign against Torreon. His cautious comment indicates the seriousness of the next move of the Constitutionalists. He predicts a stubborn defense of this stronghold of Huerta's in the North, and sets no time for the beginning of the battle. To set to rest the rumors that accompany the rise of every successful Mexican general, that he has his eye upon the Presidency, General Villa made this statement in an interview: "Should General Carranza become President he would receive my support and I would obey his commands. As proof of my loyalty and as evidence that I have no ambition to become President, I would leave the country if he ordered me to do so. I have never been in anything but the fullest accord with General Carranza. I never had any personal ambition to reach high office. I am a fighting man only, and I am fighting for the liberation of my country, not to elevate myself. I am only a soldier under command of my chief, and I shall obey him, whatever his orders may be." This, coupled with his active efforts to restore business in Chihuahua, has caused a marked change in the American estimate of the man who has hitherto appeared only in the role of a savage fighter.

The Constitutionalists claim to have plenty of money now, but have difficulty in getting arms and ammunition. Chihuahua, a city of 35,000 population, is assuming the dignity of a capital. One of the acts of the new government is a decree issued on the 1st, declaring counterfeit after February 10th, the currency issued by the Bank of Sonora, the Bank of Minora, and other banks established under the Diaz regime. The free and unlimited coinage of silver is offered as a means of providing money. A mint has been established to coin money bearing the Constitutionalist stamp. The new government is to exact a percentage of the large output of ore that has been mined at the Chihuahua mines during the military operations.

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The embargo against exportation of arms from the United States to Mexico was raised on February 3, by President Wilson. In his proclamation ordering this the President refers to the proclamation of March 14, 1912, issued by President Taft, establishing the embargo, and further says that conditions on which it was based have changed and as it is desirable to place the United States in this respect "in the same position as other powers, the said proclamation is hereby revoked."

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President Michel Oreste of Haiti fled from the Capital, Port au Prince, on the 27th, and with his wife, took refuge on board the German cruiser Vineta. Fighting began early in the afternoon, and as soon as the President had abandoned his post detachments of marines were landed from the United States armored cruiser Montana and the Vineta. The U.S. battleship South Carolina arrived at Port au Prince on the 28th. Order has been maintained in the city since the landing of marines. Members of the cabinet have fled to Kingston, Jamaica, and former exiles are returning to Haiti. Senator Davilmar Theodore appears to be in supreme command of the rebel forces, and is expected to determine the event of peace or war. [See current volume, page 110.]

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#### China's State Religion.

The worship of Heaven and of Confucius by the President, Yuan Shih Kai, is prescribed by a bill passed by the administrative council on the 29th. The bill was submitted by Yuan himself, who gave as his reason that the Chinese nation needed the moral influence of religion, and thought the President should set the people a good example. This act of Yuan Shih Kai is not looked upon as intolerant or revolutionary, but rather as of political significance. By restoring the practice of the former emperors, in worshiping once a year at a Confucian temple and at the Temple of Heaven, the President hopes to assure his people that the political revolution did not involve the overturning of all things. [See current volume, page 59.]

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In accordance with President Yuan Shih Kai's undertaking to fulfill all the foreign obligations of the previous government a contract made with Charles M. Schwab of New York on the eve of the revolution in 1911 has been confirmed. This contract committed China to purchase warships of the value of \$20,000,000 from the Bethlehem steel works.

## **NEWS NOTES**

-The South Carolina House of Representatives voted against woman suffrage on January 24.

-On January 22 a woman suffrage amendment to the Mississippi Constitution was defeated by the lower house of the legislature.

-Edwin Ginn, well-known publisher, staunch anti-Imperialist, and founder of the World Peace Foundation, died at Boston on January 29, in his 76th year.

-A concession for the construction of an electric car line from Jerusalem to Bethlehem was granted on January 27 by the Turkish government to the French bank that recently supplied Turkey with money to purchase the Brazilian dreadnought Rio Janeiro.

—Sir David Gill, famous Scottish astronomer known for his use of the camera in astronomy and for his geodetic survey work in Africa, died at London on January 25 at the age of seventy-one.

-The contest against seating of Senator Blair Lee of Maryland was decided in his favor on January 28, the Senate approving the elections committee's report by a vote of 53 to 13. [See current volume, page 82.]

-The estate of Henry H. Rogers, the Standard Oil magnate who died in 1909, was shown to be worth \$40,000,000, according to an appraisal filed on February 1 at New York by the executor with the transfer tax appraiser.

-Quincy, Illinois, rejected the commission form of government on January 27 by 7,020 majority. The vote was 2,804 for and 9,824 against, divided as fóllows: Women, for 1,360; against 4,201. Men, for 1,444; against 5,623.

-An appeal to defer signing the Kenyon bill abolishing Washington's segregated district was made on January 29 to President Wilson by mission workers, who wish first to solve the problem of what to do with the inmates.

-Dr. Joseph Fischer, of Nanheim, Germany, reports in a Munich medical weekly the discovery of a cure for seasickness. An injection of atropin, he claims, cures the worst cases of seasickness, and leaves no ill effects from the use of the drug.

-The nomination of Henry M. Pindell as ambassador to Russia was approved by the Senate on January 27. On February 2 President Wilson made public a letter from Mr. Pindell, dated January 28, declining the position. [See vol. xvi, p. 1189.]

-Four delegates to the National Conference on Unemployment at New York on February 27 and 28 were appointed on January 28 by Governor Dunne of Illinois. They are John J. Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor; John H. Walker, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor; John Barton Payne of Chicago, and H. P. Simpson of Rock Island.

-A full pardon with pay for time lost was granted by President Wilson on January 29 to Private Clarence L. George, who has served four months of a year's sentence at the Leavenworth penitentiary. George's offense had been writing a letter to the President's private secretary, Mr. Tumulty, complaining of having been denied a furlough. The letter never reached Mr. Tumulty, but George was courtmartialed for complaining over the head of his superior. [See current volume, page 76.]

-Former United States Senator Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois, died at'Washington on January 28, in his 85th year. He became a senator in 1883 and remained continuously in that position until 1913. The most conspicuous legislation with which he was connected was the putting in final shape of the first act creating the interstate commerce commission, which became a law in 1887. At the time of his death he held the position at Washington of Resident Commissioner of the Lincoln Memorial. His funeral took place at Springfield on February 1.

# **PRESS OPINIONS**

#### Wilson Will Stand the Test.

Senator La Follette in La Follette's Magazine, January 10.-Installed in office ten months ago, President Wilson turned at once to the performance of his great task. Congress was summoned. The tariff was reduced. It was a long, hard struggle. The interests resisted. They threatened to strike back, to cut wages, to discharge employes. And wages were cut. Labor in many industries was put on half time. Thousands of workmen were discharged. The "squeeze" has been on for months. It is whispered that the private records of the National Manufacturers' Association show that within ninety days two hundred thousand wage earners have been thrown out of employment. The association did not publish this information. Doubtless it has been apprehensive that too intimate a knowledge might imply concerted action in bringing such conditions about. And the Association is "lying low" for the present. But two hundred thousand wage earners idle means a loss of more than half a million dollars a day to the men alone-fifteen or twenty million in wages every month. A great big fact like that, judiciously handled, could be converted into a tremendous amount of political pressure. So it was permitted to leak through the proper channels to reach those close to the President. It is an open secret that the Administration and the Democratic leaders of the Senate and House have been very nervous for many weeks. They have heard the growl of idle labor. They fear the effect of a season of business depression upon the approaching congressional elections. Hence the haste for the passage of a currency bill; hence the kind of a currency bill that would be acceptable to the Big Bankers; hence all this talk about compromising with the great combinations-"fixing things up" without going to court. Hence no more is heard about "the vigorous enforcement of the criminal law against trust officials;" hence no more threats to "break up criminal commercial conspiracies, to reduce the high cost of living." The final test of the Administration is near at hand. President Wilson should be reassured. He should be made to feel that if he keeps faith with the public, the public will sustain him. Let "all honest men, all patriotic, all forward-looking men" urge President Wilson to stand like a rock against the combined power of the System that seeks to turn him back from the fulfillment of his pledges to the American people.

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#### A Tale of Two Nations.

Collier's Weekly, January 17.—Two recent newspaper items deserve a second reading. One of them concerns a \$15,000,000 land sale in London:

By selling nineteen acres of land in the heart of London, centering around Covent Garden, the Duke of Bedford violates all the traditions of his family. His ancestors have held the property since the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, at which time it belonged to the monks of Westminster. . If in breaking up his estate this great London landlord were inspired by fear of Lloyd-George's land policy, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be entitled to the blessings of the people of London. But Lloyd-George's reforms relate more directly to the rural districts, where the effects of the established system of landlordism have been more burdensome than in London. In farming distrcts thousands of acres, including whole villages, are often held under single ownership.

In 1552, when this block of land came into the hands of the Duke's ancestor, its annual rental value was about \$32. In recent years, Covent Garden Market alone has brought the "owner" something like \$1,250,000 a year in tolls. But from this paragraph let us turn to the news from Mexico:

All the property of Luis Terrazas, Sr., Enrique Creel and Juan Creel, including banks, mines, vast areas of land, thousands of head of cattle, homes and personal effects, was ordered confiscated to the rebels in an official decree issued by General Francisco Villa. The holdings of General Terrazas, now a refugee in the United States, about two-thirds of the state of Chinuahua, place him among the most extensive landholders in the world. The combined estate of the Terrazas and the Creel brothers, his nephews, is valued at many millions.

One does not often associate Mexico, land of unrest, and England, "civilized" England, unless in considering British investments in the republic south of us. But here is news which emphasizes a truth of more than local import. The social ills of both these countries spring from the ownership of land by an absurdly small minority that exploits values created by its fellow men-whether those men be called "agricultural laborers," cockneys, or peons. Henry George, if he were alive today, would make some interesting comments on this state of affairs. But he has really made them already—in "Progress and Poverty."

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#### A Case of Greeks Bearing Gifts.

Cleveland (O.) Press, January 19.-An eastern organ of privilege scolds radicals who "continue to hack and hew the corporations after they have accepted terms of surrender." It wants "peace." The corporations surrendering? What have they surrendered? None of their profits on watered capitalization. Very few of the millions they have wrung by extortion from manacled labor and helpless consumers. Mary Jones, washerwoman, is still paying trust tribute on food, clothing and shelter, and wondering how under heaven she can make ends meet. Labor in Colorado, labor in Michigan, labor in West Virginia, is still on the rack. "Peace"? You don't see much peace in Calumet, do you? Privilege can't save itself by putting the shingle of feigned penitence down its back. It's a case now of spare the rod and spoil the job.

#### 

Little Alice was to speak in public for the first time at a Sunday school concert. When it came her turn she arose and walked across the platform very bravely, but being seized with a sudden attack of stage fright she could not find her voice. Something came up in her throat, making her gulp and swallow, but no little poem was forthcoming. Finally, turning a frightened face to her teacher, she gasped, "I've swallowed my piece."—Woman's Home Companion,



## **RELATED THINGS** CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

#### THE UNCOMMON COMMONER.

By Edmund Vance Cooke.

Bulwark and barbican, grim and tall, Keep and turret and moated wall, Portico, peristyle, stately hall, Palaces, castles, courts and all; Lofty minaret, lordly dome, Humble yourselves at the childhood home Of Lincoln.

Made of a few sticks, clumsily cut; No window to open, no door to shut; So wretched, indeed, that the name of hut Were gilded praise of its poverty, but— By the kernel alone we must judge the nut. Who could have dreamed in that early hour That out of such muck would have sprung the flower— A Lincoln!

Reactionaries! who strive, today, To hold that men are of differing clay; Oligarchs! plutocrats! ye who say The fathers were wrong, and yea or nay May answer a People's Rights today, That some are to rule and some obey, One plain word shall command your shame; Into your faces I fling the name Of Lincoln.

Whence did he come? From the rearmost rank Of the humblest file. Was it some mad prank Of God that the mountains were bare and blank And the strong tree grew on the lowliest bank? Not so! 'Tis the Law. The seed blows wide And the flower may bloom as the garden's pride, Or spring from the ditch. Nor time, nor place, Condition nor caste, nor creed nor race May limit manhood. The proof is the case Of Lincoln.

How was he trained—this untaught sage, With nothing but want for his heritage? Set to work at the tender age Which should have been conning a primer page; His whole youth spent for the pitiful wage Of axman, boatman, farmer, clerk; For learned alone in the school of work Was Lincoln.

What was his power? Not kingly caste, Nor jungle of gold, howsoever amassed; Not Napoleon's force, with the world aghast; Not Tallyrand's cunning, now loose, now fast; Not weak persuasion or flerce duress, But strong with the Virtue of Homeliness Was Lincoln.

Homely in feature. An old style room, With its tall, quaint clock and its old, quaint loom, Has very much of his home-made air; Plain, but a plainness made to wear. Homely in character. Void of pretense; Homely in homeliest common sense. Homely in honesty, homespun stuff For every weather, mild or rough. Homely in humor, which bubbled up Like a forest spring in its earthen cup. Homely in justice. He knew the law, But often more than the letter he saw; And, sheathing the sword to its harmless hilt, Wrote "Pardon" over the blot of guilt. Homely in patience. His door stood wide, And carping and cavil from every side Dinned in his ears, but he went his way And did the strongest that in him lay. Homely in modesty. Never a claim Of credit he made, and he shirked no blame, Yet firm in his place as the hemisphere When principle said to him, "Stand thou here!" Homely in tenderness. Motherhood's breast, Where the new babe cradles its head to rest, Is not more tender than was his heart; Yet brave as a Bayard in every part Was Lincoln.

O, Uncommon Commoner! may your name Forever lead like a living fiame! Unschooled Scholar! how did you learn The wisdom a lifetime cannot earn? Unsainted Martyr! higher than saint! You were a MAN with a man's constraint. In the world, of the world, was your lot; With it and for it the fight you fought, And never till Time is itself forgot And the heart of man is a pulseless clot, Shall the blood flow slow when we think the thought Of Lincoln.

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## IMMEDIATE AND ULTIMATE AIMS OF THE SINGLETAX.

#### From the Speech of Herbert S. Bigelow at the Washington Singletax Conference Banquet, January 17.

It is good once in a while to come back to one's friends—to mix with those who share one's ideals. It is good to come back and look into your faces and feel your heart-throbs. It is the best thing in the world just to feel while out on the battlefield that somewhere one is carning love and affection.

Now, as for the ultimate aim of the Singletax, there are so many ways in which it might be expressed. It is nothing short of establishing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. I might express it differently by quoting a text,—the text of the first sermon I ever preached—"I came that they might have light and that they might have it more abundantly." When I preached that sermon for the first time I hadn't read "Progress and Poverty," and so I didn't see the deep truth, feel the significance of that glorious sentence.

I went to preach that first sermon of mine across the city upon one of our hillsides. It cost me thirty cents to get there. I was anxious. I

had let my mind picture the great throng waiting anxiously for my utterance. The first thing I saw was a big fat woman struggling to light some lamps suspended to the ceiling. There were a few men and women and children present—seventeen in all. It was part of the arrangement that for my services I was to receive the entire collection, and I am going to confess to you that I stopped that night under the first lamp-post to count the change, twenty-three cents.

I looked the sermon over the other day and decided that I had been overpaid. I didn't then know how to preach a sermon from that text. Henry George has taught me how. Is not the ultimate aim of the Singletax that we shall create a social condition so just, so free that every child shall have more abundant life, which the Heavenly Father meant that he should have?

Jane Addams tells about a woman in the Hull House parish. She worked in a feather factory. She had one child, a boy, whom she took to the factory every day. All the workers loved him. They called him Gussy. One day the mother was hanging out the clothes on the roof of the tenement house in which she lived. Little Gussy was playing around her. Suddenly she missed him. He had fallen off the roof. They picked him up limp and dead. The funeral service was at Hull House and after it the mother sat over in one corner of the room. Miss Addams asked her if there was anything she could do for her. "Please, Miss Addams," she replied, "just let me have one day's wages. Gussy was always begging me to rock him. I never had time. I would like to stay home one day now to rock the empty cradle."

Some say that the suffering of mankind is the result of some blunder God has made, some that it is the result of discord in nature's laws and that the only remedy is for the government to step in and, by doing this and that, take care of people. The philosophy of the Singletax is that it is not God's blunder, neither is it the fault of the laws of nature. The philosophy of the Singletax is, that human institutions, man-made laws, have interfered with God's laws, and that the way to help is to abolish special privileges that rob the people. It would deprive you of great opportunities to hear others if I were to attempt to do what is altogether unnecessary-that is, to explain why it is that we think land monopoly the most vicious of all these special privileges; and why we believe that the method of abolishing taxes on everything that is made by labor and of compelling each man to contribute to the government an amount in proportion to the value of the land he holds, is the most sensible way to destroy this greatest of all special privileges. I will content myself with saying a word about the Ohio situation.

I had a half-formed resolution when I came here. It is entirely made now. Sometimes some of my friends in their kindness think that I should expect, that I have a right to expect, or that they are hoping for me some sort of promotion in political life. My friends, the resolution I partly formed, and it is all formed now, is that Dan Kiefer and I should go back to Ohio to fight. We fought for fifteen years in Ohio to get the Initiative and Referendum. That was just the beginning. The real fight is coming. We are going to place on the ballot of Ohio this fall a straight out-and-out Singletax Amendment. If we lose, as we probably shall for a time, it will be on the ballot next year and the next and the next, until we win.

What reward could a man have more than to go back to his own State and fight a battle like that and then come once a year and find in your faces the approval for his coming? We used to hope that Tom Johnson would be President. We used to hope that Johnson would be President, and I did him a great injustice. Back in those days, when he laughed at the suggestion, I never quite believed him. I didn't see how his attitude was possible, but, friends, I believe it now. What the world needs is a man who will go back and fight and fight as long as life lasts if necessary.

There come to me tonight two beautiful pictures-beautiful to me-a little blue-eved girl and a fine bonny lad who is already growing to God knows that I have never my shoulder. prayed for that little girl that she might some day live in a house of Privilege and have other little girls of other men waiting on her. And for the boy, God knows I never prayed for him the power to crowd the children of other men from the table of the world. I pray for them that they may be given the opportunity to do some useful service, that they may come into a society where they know that they have a chance and that all other men's children have the same chance as well. That, my friends, is what I am asking for.

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## SOME FRIENDS OF OURS

#### No. 5. The Woman Who Held Mortgages. Part One.

#### For The Public.

Zoeth Raeburn was dead. He left a quiet, repressed wife, who had been a poor girl with a sick mother when Raeburn came to the village on some business connected with one of his mortgages, saw her at a house where she did the weekly wash, and married her within the year. He loved her, too, in his own way; he loved nothing else except money.

He had told her with his love of exactness: "I'll be good to you and your mother; I am always square with everybody I deal with. You run the



house, and I'll run my business, which is just lending money all over the State." So Angevine, who had a pretty French-Canadian brightness then, and was accustomed to obeying men-folk, married him respectfully, made him exactly the sort of respectful wife he wanted, and-when the end came -found herself, after a talk with the old family lawyer, a most bewilderingly rich woman. By that time her mother, also, had taken the great journey into the Unknown, and she had no friend on earth; for a time she clung with pitiful but stubborn persistence to the lawyer, and tried hard to understand business.

"You need not trouble at all, Mrs. Raeburn. The whole thing is pre-eminently safe. His last suggestions were to close out every mortgage as fast as practicable without loss, transfer some, foreclose on all who were too much behindhand, turn the results into gilt-edged securities and handle them, under proper bonds, of course, as a Trust Fund. You will then be about as well fixed, financially, as any widow I know of."

The old lawyer hesitated a minute, but he went on-for he was as honest as broad daylight: "I must add that the will leaves everything to you, and that you can change any and all arrangements, transfer to another agent, act as your own agent, found an orphan asylum-do anything that you like. I advised somewhat differently, but your husband said you saved copper cents closer than he did."

Angevine rose, looked the lawyer in the face, thanked him very sweetly, said: "I must think this over," and went home.

She found a letter there. It was from North Chowchilla-a place she had never heard of. It was addressed to "Z. Rabun, Money Lender," and evidently should have gone to the lawyer, but she opened it.

"Sir," it said. "We hev save, an' starve, an' kep' the chil'ren to work, ter pay your intrust; an' now the hoppers hev ate the wheat an' my man says you tol't the lawyer ter sell us out. Ef ye hev one spark of feller-feelin' fur anybody on earth, give us one more chanst." It was signed, "Sabra Finch, Wife of Amos Finch, Farmer."

Angevine thought it over that night. Then she went to see her lawyer, and not only astonished him; she touched a hitherto-unknown place in his nature. As she went off, he said to himself: "Raeburn lived with that remarkable woman twenty years, and never knew five per cent of her. She has found her life-work, and I'll help her all I can."

Her girl-ambition had been to play on the stage. Now she clutched the precious list of mortgagors, and the sums they owed the estate. (Amos Finch and Sabra, his wife, came first on the document.) She said to herself: "Will I be able to understand them, and can I teach them how to pull out? don't want their land; people who work a piece

of land should have it as long as they use it to the best advantage."

Angevine went to the nearest large city and lost herself there. The notion spread in her old neighborhood that Mrs. Raeburn was going to the Puget Sound country and a-travelin' over the world for the fun of it, since she had so much money. But it was Angevine Miller, a little dressmaker, who took train and stage for North Chowchilla. That was her maiden name, and she knew the everyday needs of country women for plain dressmaking. She asked questions and made friends, staid a week at Merced Falls, hired a rig, and was driven about the ranches. Finally she worked across into the Chowchilla region, and began her real adven-CHARLES HOWARD SHINN. ture.

#### THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

- Swing inward, O gates of the future, Swing outward, ye doors of the past, For the soul of the people is moving
- And rising from slumber at last;
- The black forms of night are retreating, The white peaks have signaled the day,

And freedom her long roll is beating, And calling her sons to the fray.

- And woe to the rule that has plundered And trod down the wounded and slain,
- While the wars of the old time have thundered,
- And men poured their life-tide in vain.
- The day of its triumph is ending,
- The evening draws near with its doom, And the star of its strength is descending
- To sleep in dishonor and gloom.
- Though the tall trees are crowned on the highlands With the first gold of rainbow and sun,
- While far in the distance below them
- The rivers in dark shadows run,
- They must fall, and the workmen shall burn them Where the lands and the low waters meet.
- And the steeds of the new time shall spurn them With the souls of their swift-flying feet.
- Swing inward, O gates of the future,
- Swing outward, ye doors of the past;
- A giant is waking from slumber
- And rending his fetters at last.

From the dust, where his proud tyrants bound him, Unhonored and scorned and betrayed,

He shall rise with the sunset around him And rule in the realm he has made.

-James G. Clark.

# BOOKS

## CONCERNING MARKETS.

Markets for the People. By J. W. Sullivan. Published by the MacMillan Company, New York. 1913. Price, \$1.25 net.

The matter of markets is really a phase of that

part of production embraced in distribution, and the subject of distribution is receiving more general and earnest consideration than ever before. Hence Mr. Sullivan's book is timely and it is useful, so far as it goes, and it is well put together. It is an interesting and edifying collection of pertinent facts and illuminative statistics on producemarkets and marketing in the chief cities of the world.

6, 1914.

Co-operation, in the ordinary sense, is discredited. No very specific recommendations are offered; but the whole lesson of the book is that producers receive too little and that consumers pay too much, that high rents make for bad buying opportunities, and that the no-rent, no-license wagon and push-cart vending afford by far the best marketing opportunities—all of which observations have a far-reaching significance if Mr. Sullivan's readers will only see it.

ROBERT S. DOUBLEDAY.

## **BOOKS RECEIVED**

-My Rubaiyat. By Sadakichi Hartmann. Published for the author by the Mangan Printing Co., St. Louis, Mo. 1913.

-Taxation and the Distribution of Wealth. By Frederic Mathews. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. 1914. Price, \$2.50 net.

--Trusts Good and Bad. By Louis F. Post. Reprinted chapters from The Ethics of Democracy. Published by The Public, Ellsworth Bldg., Chicago. 1914. Price, paper, 15 cents, postpaid.

-The History of the Grain Trade in France, 1400-1710. By Abbott Payson Usher. Harvard Economic Studies, Volume IX. Published by Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. 1913. Price, \$2.00 net.

-The Civil Service of Great Britain. By Robert Moses. Whole number 139, Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. Longmans, Green & Co., agents, New York. 1914. Price, \$2.00 net.

-The Policy of the United States Towards Industrial Monopoly. By Oswald Whitman Knauth. Whole number 138, Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. Longmans, Green & Co., agents, New York. 1914. Price, \$2.00 net.

# PAMPHLETS

#### Pamphlets Received.

The World Peace Foundation Work in 1913. Published by the World Peace Foundation, 40 Mt. Vernon St., Boston. December, 1913.

Administration of Labor Laws. Published by the

American Association for Labor Legislation, 131 E. 23rd St., New York. December, 1913. Price, \$1.00.

The Commission of Inquiry: The Wilson-Bryan Peace Plan. By Denys P. Myers. Published by the World Peace Foundation, 40 Mt. Vernon St., Boston. 1913. Single copies free.

Nellson, of Hyde. By J. Archer. Reprinted from the "Hyde Reporter." To be obtained from the English League for the Taxation of Land Values, 376 Strand, London, W. C. Price, one penny.

Our Duty Concerning the Panama Canal Tolls. By Thomas Raeburn White and Charlemagne Tower. Published by the World Peace Foundation, 40 Mt. Vernon St., Boston. October, 1913. Single copies free.

Forest Taxation: Report by the Sub-Committee on Forest Taxation of the Forestry Committee of the Fifth National Conservation Congress, Gifford Pinchot, Chairman. November, 1913. Washington, D. C.

Wages and Hours of Labor in the Boot and Shoe and Hosiery and Knit Goods Industries, 1890 to 1912. Whole Number 134, Bulletins of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C. Printed at the Government Printing Office, 1913.

Land and Liberty: Mexico's Battle for Freedom and its Relation to Labor's World-Wide Struggie. Selections from Writings of Ricardo Flores Magon, A de P. Araujo and Wm. C. Owen. Published by the Mexican Liberal Party, Box 1236, Los Angeles, Calif. 1913. Price, 10 cents.

The Application of the Teachings and Example of Christ to the Relationship of the Native Citizen to the Immigrant. By Nathana L. Clyde. A Practical Application of Christianity to the American Race Problem. By William Burkhold, being Hattie Elizabeth Lewis Memorial Essays in Applied Christianity. Published by the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan. 1913.

#### 

Prof: A fool can ask more questions than a wise man can answer.

Stude: No wonder so many of us flunk in our exams!--Penn State Froth.

#### \* \* \*

"Here, sir," said the antique dealer, displaying a huge sword to a clerical-looking collector, "ever see anything more-interesting than that? That's Balaam's sword."

"But, my good man, that cannot be," said the dominie, "Balaam never had a sword. He only wished for one."

"Quite right, sir," said the dealer. "This is the one he wished for!"—Chicago Journal.

#### **Ö Ö Ö**

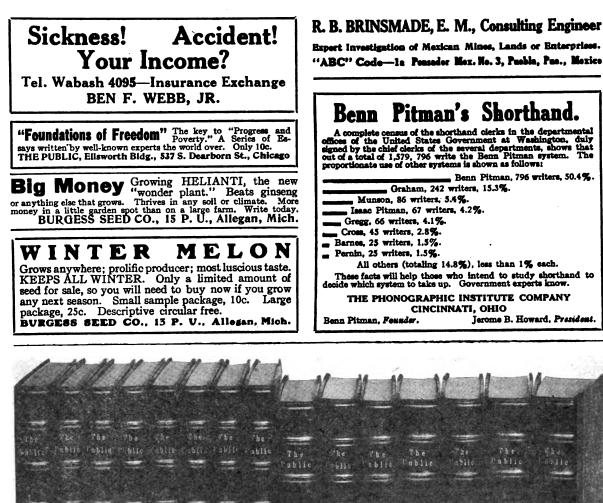
"At this point," said the narrator, "she broke down and wept scalding tears."

"My goodness!" exclaimed a listener. "She must have been boiling over with rage."—The Pathfinder.

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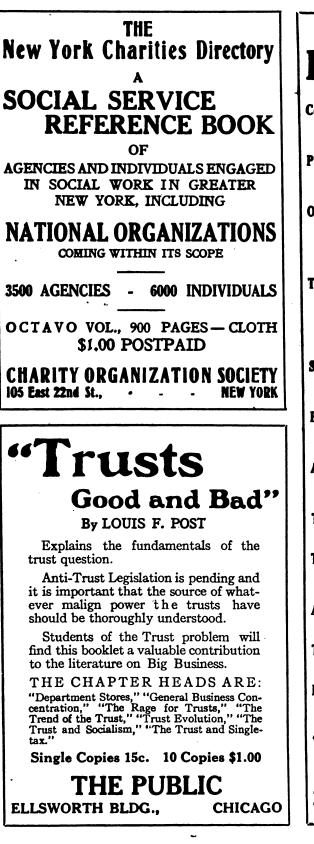
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## THE CHICAGO SINGLETAX CLVB

Meets every Friday at 8 p. m., at 508 Schiller Building Feb. 6, Mrs. Ella Persson Tideman, "Social Problems." Feb. 13, Schiller Hall, ALD. CHARLES E. MERRIAM, "Home Rule for Citles."

E. J. Batten, "Single Tax and its Relation to Home Rule." Otto Cullman, Pres. Milton D. Bryce, Sec





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