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a Weekly Narrative of History in the Making.

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## EDITORIAL

### President Wilson and Mexico.

Little comfort for jingoes, annexationists and exploiters is to be found in Samuel G. Blythe's account in the Saturday Evening Post of May 25 of President Wilson's views on the Mexican situation. President Wilson plainly says therein: "When we have finished with Mexico, Mexico will be territorially intact." What President Wilson promises will be done. We could not be so sure were Congress to do the promising. The memory is still too fresh for that of the pledge made by Congress in the Teller resolution at the outbreak of the Spanish war, to the effect that there would be no annexation of territory. In spite of that promise, and in spite of President McKinley's denunciation of criminal aggression, we committed the wrong against the Philippines that to this day has not been righted. So a promise by Congress would be justly subject to doubt. It is different with President Wilson. His word will be kept.



With assurance that there will be neither annexation nor indemnity, the greater part of the incentive to provoke a war will be destroyed. Did not powerful American interests entertain the hope that war would result in annexation, there would be little heard of any possibility of war. So President Wilson practically assures peace.



As encouraging to the cause of popular rights as it must be discouraging to the Otises and Hearsts is the President's insistence that the mediation proceedings result in "a settlement of the agrarian land question by constitutional means—such as that followed in New Zealand, for example." He realizes that such a settlement is one that predatory interests would avoid. Their demand for establishment of order, he says, "is not order for the benefit of the people of Mexico, the great mass of the population, but order for the

benefit of the old-time regime, for the aristocrats, for the vested interests, for the men who are responsible for this very condition of disorder." And how shocking to Tory sentiment must be this expression by a President of the United States: "I say to you that the old order is dead. It is my part, as I see it, to aid in composing those differences as far as I am able, that the new order, which will have its foundation on human liberty and human rights, shall prevail."



The suggestion of the New Zealand idea as a possible solution of the agrarian problem is inspiring. It is true that New Zealand's land measures are far from perfect and in more than one respect depart from correct principles. Yet they stand as an attempt—clumsy and blundering as it is—to apply a fundamental remedy to a fundamental evil. They mark a departure from efforts to cure economic troubles without touching the cause. It does not follow that in the suggestion of New Zealand's example the land laws of that colony must be literally copied. It should not be difficult to eliminate the mistakes, the most glaring of which are the exemption of small holdings from taxation and the graduated tax features, especially the one that deals more gently with a domestic monopolist than a non-resident one. Let Mexico improve on the New Zealand system by making its land value tax apply to all holdings so as to give to the people all the values that they have created and so as to leave none to those who have not created them. There will then be established indeed a "new order which will have its foundation on human liberty and human rights."

S. D.



### The Land Question Outside of Mexico.

Mexico is not the only nation that needs, as President Wilson suggests, such land regulations as those of New Zealand. That the United States is also in need is shown not only by recent events in Colorado, Michigan and West Virginia, but by the presence of unemployed in all of our cities, by recurring periods of industrial depression, by discouragement through inflated land values of farming and other industries, by the growth of a tenant class in the rural districts, by emigration of farmers to Canada, and by the general prevalence of poverty together with all the vice, crime and misery resulting from poverty or from fear of it. The New Zealand system, with its many serious mistakes eliminated, would give to us as well as to Mexico industrial peace so badly needed.

S. D.

### High Cost of Finance.

Without attempting to pass upon the fundamental principles involved in the plea of the railroads before the Interstate Commerce Commission for a five per cent advance in freight rates, it must be apparent that the general freight-paying public will have to be shown beyond a reasonable doubt that such advance is necessary before the permission will meet with popular approval. When the roads stated that wages were steadily advancing, and that materials were going up, while freight rates remained the same, they did not present the whole case. The logic of events calls for higher wages for labor and lower rates for service. Else, where are the advantages of invention and discovery? Industrial progress consists in devising ways and means of enabling one man to do the work of two. And when the fruits of such a saving of labor are fully and honestly distributed, it must necessarily result in the one man's getting the pay of two. Anything less than this is a denial of the original premise.



What has become of all the savings that science and invention have made possible in railroading? The latest type of locomotive handles thirty cars as easily as the earlier types pulled ten. And each car has a capacity four to eight fold greater than the cars of thirty years ago. The air-brake and the automatic coupling have reduced the train crews per ton until the actual wage paid for moving a ton of freight one mile is less—in spite of the rise in nominal wages—than formerly. What, then, has become of the gains from science and invention? Mr. Mellen, in his testimony before the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington, is disclosing some of the leaks. Ordinary citizens complain of the advance of the price of meat from twenty to twenty-five cents; but Mr. Mellen explains how his road, at the behest of Mr. Morgan, paid \$35,000,000 for a road worth only \$5,000,000. That was an advance worthy of note. It is not so easy to pay dividends on thirty-five millions as upon five millions; and to do so necessitated one of two things: Either a reduction of wages, or an advance in rates.



If the New Haven case were an isolated one in fact, instead of in discovery, it would have less weight. But the many reasons pointing in that direction leads to the suspicion that were the whole truth known this little transaction would be found to be typical of a vast deal of high financing. The

twenty-five millions of Alton stock issued by Harriman, leads one to wonder how the Rock Island's \$71,297,000 grew to be \$192,502,580. It would seem that other men beside Mr. Mellen should have an opportunity to explain. The roads complain that they must have more money in order to make needed improvements, but that they cannot borrow unless they can show greater earnings; hence, the necessity for the advance in freight rates. But while the discrepancy between freight rates and dividends can be mended by raising the rates; it can also be corrected by lowering the cost of operation. Sixty and seventy-five thousand dollars a year is a pretty high salary for railroad presidents; it is high even for men who gracefully and willingly defer to the judgment of Mr. Morgan. Whether or not Congress passes a minimum wage law, it might with profit enact a maximum wage law for business in which the government is a recognized partner. Private cars, special service, de luxe trains, all drain the treasury. But worst of all is the watered stock. By all means let the investigation go on. While the government is making a physical valuation of the roads, let it also make a moral valuation of the men in charge of the roads. S. C.



### Inefficiency of American Craftsmen.

Again Americans must confess failure to take full advantage of their opportunities. We have been regaled from time to time by carping critics with tales of inefficiency, of lack of technical training, and of failure to rise to occasions. Our schools, we are told, are lacking, our ideas of education are at fault, and our methods of child-culture are wrong. And now we have indubitable evidence that we are sadly deficient in at least one calling, that of muckraking. A few years ago when the muckraker brought to light such putrescence as set the press and pulpit in a flutter, and astounded the world, our only consolation lay in the fact that the story was "grossly exaggerated." Yet scarce had we finished cleansing the Augean Stables of frenzied finance, than we were plunged headlong into the Stygian Pool by the revelations of the National Association of Manufacturers, and no sooner had we dragged ourselves out that we were thrown into the Pit of Acheron by the story of Mr. Mellen.



What next? Are there still other depths to which we must go? How many more idols must we see shattered? And what shall we say of our

incompetent muckrakers, who overlooked such glaring examples? Is the Department of Justice to uncover more rottenness than did the sensational press? When a man like Mr. Mellen lays bare such a record as that of Mr. Morgan one may well look askance at all the great financiers. We are in danger of losing the old axiom of English law—a man is innocent till proven guilty; and of being compelled to accept the French—a man is guilty till proven innocent. But the worst is over. The crowning evil of the frenzied finance period was the vitiated public opinion, that state of mind that placed a halo above the head of every man who amassed a fortune. That idolatrous worship of success has been shown to be a sham; and the people are returning to sanity and rightness of mind. S. C.



### LaFollette Offends Privilege Once More.

Senator LaFollette has again brought upon himself loud denunciations from the organs of Privilege. He has taken 366 pages of the Congressional Record of May 12 to print—not his own argument—but principally statements of railroad supporters designed to influence the Interstate Commerce Commission in favor of an increase in freight rates. Other Senators and Congressmen habitually make use of the leave to print privilege. But it is only when something is inserted which Privilege prefers not to have published that such protests are made. So while these protests are based on professed zeal for economy in use of public funds, there is ground for suspicion that there may be some other reason at bottom. Possibly it may be the few pages devoted to opposition arguments. Or may it not be fear lest publication of some of the favorable communications may cause them to have a different effect than was intended? S. D.



### The Trust Problem in Congress.

The Progressive party policy on the trust question is perhaps defined in the bill of Congressman Murdock of Kansas, which empowers an interstate trade commission to determine by investigation, in the case of any monopoly, whether its monopolistic power is based upon "control of natural resources, control of terminal or transportation facilities, control of financial resources, or any other economic condition inherent in the character of the industry." In speaking in the House on May 19, Congressman Hinebaugh of Illinois, a Progressive party member, urged the Democratic majority to adopt this provision in its bill for an

interstate trade commission. Since he said nothing about conferring despotic power on such a commission, his advice, as it was given, seems to be good and ought to be accepted with an amendment including tariff or other government bounties among possible sources of monopolistic power. The information thus obtained should make clear to every congressman that the trust problem can not be solved by litigation or by putting any one in jail. It would leave no excuse for failure to enact rational anti-trust legislation, as yet unendorsed by any political party, the abolition of Privilege in every form—such a solution as was advocated in a speech by Congressman Warren Worth Bailey, in the House on May 23.

S. D.



### Relieving Business.

Under the caption "Hostility to Business Must Stop!" the Chicago Record-Herald gives a pertinent answer to the resolutions recently adopted by the National Association of Manufacturers, demanding "a cessation of hostilities to legitimate business." Conceding the reasonableness of the demand, and declaring the man who is hostile to legitimate business to be an enemy of every honest man and woman in the country, the Record-Herald agrees that it must stop; but it goes on to say that it must stop wherever it exists, in legislatures, in political conventions, and in high finance.

Hostility to business of the kind illustrated by the New Haven, Rock Island, Frisco and similar operations; hostility to business exemplified by predatory and greedy trusts condemned under the rule of reason; hostility to business exemplified by rebates and other discriminations condemned by law and public sentiment; hostility to business exemplified by industrial bourbons who oppose all proper regulation—all such manifestations to business must stop, or legislative and political hostility to business will never stop. Legitimate business should purge itself and banish the gamblers and tricksters, the get-rich-quick manipulators. Abuses in business by inner cliques have done more to create hostility than all the speeches of superficial and wild demagogues.



These are words of gold, and should sink deep into the consciousness of the frenzied financiers. But there is another hostile influence working against legitimate business that the editor did not mention, which is more powerful, and more subtle, than all the others combined. This is the toll of legalized Privilege. Where Morganatic transactions fleh from legitimate business thousands, the private appropriation of economic rent takes its tens of thousands. Enterprising captains of in-

dustry associate with themselves skilled workmen to produce the wealth of the world; but everywhere they find, before they can begin operations, that some one has forestalled them in the ownership of the earth, that medium on which and from which they must work. It is the toll that the owners of the earth take as owners, that constitutes the chief burden upon industry. Society can jail such enemies of legitimate business as are enumerated by the Record-Herald, but what shall it do with this giant enemy who takes all that is left, save just enough to keep business struggling on from year to year? s. c.



### Colorado's Expensive Tax-Dodgers.

\$635,000 has already been spent by the State of Colorado for military expenses in the strike district. A million dollar bond issue has been authorized by the legislature to cover this expenditure and expected additional expenditures. How much of this will be paid by the operators involved? They hold, according to a pamphlet issued by the United Mine Workers of America, 58,812 acres in the strike district, worth \$7,239,380, containing improvements worth \$2,282,694. On this their annual state taxes amount to just \$12,378.67. These figures, the pamphlet states, "can be substantiated at the office of the State Auditor in Denver." Under the circumstances it is not surprising that the mines can be held idle or be only partly worked. There would have been no civil war if this absurdly low tax had been increased sufficiently to make an expensive luxury of the withholding from use of natural resources worth more than seven millions. There will surely be more trouble if the State does not change its tax system so as to permit of such increase. These large corporations financed the opposition to the Bucklin proposition of 1902 to adopt the Australasian tax system. Why they did so needs no explanation in view of the figures presented. They should not be permitted to continue blocking such reforms. s. d.



### Judge Lindsey's Mission.

That Judge Lindsey's mission in visiting Washington was not pleasing to Colorado's predatory corporations need cause no surprise. So there was nothing startling in the sending of a telegram to President Wilson by the Denver Chamber of Commerce denying Lindsey's right to represent the State or its interests. Even if the Chamber of Commerce were correct in the assertion, it said nothing to discredit Lindsey's mission. One need

carry no credentials to be able to present a true statement concerning conditions. Judge Lindsey is so well known throughout the length and breadth of the nation that written credentials in his case were not needed to prove his right to speak for the State and its useful interests. The character of the enemies he has made is equally well known, so the contemptible effort to cast doubt on his veracity may be easily appraised at its proper value. Whether authorized to represent the State or not, he undoubtedly gave a more correct description of conditions in Colorado than has been allowed to go through any corporation controlled news agency.

S. D.



### **Tory Candidates at Democratic Primaries.**

The announced candidacy of Judge William H. Wallace of Kansas City for the Missouri Democratic Senatorial nomination, gives to the Democratic voters of the State the choice between him and present Senator Stone. Stone is better known than Wallace. That gives Wallace an advantage he does not deserve. But as the campaign progresses it will undoubtedly disappear. Wallace was able to fool the farmers of Missouri in 1912. To defend his interests as a landlord and a prospective heir to more predatory power, he posed as a farmer and joined in the false cry concerning the Singletax amendment, saying that it would ruin the farmer. His campaign for the nomination will doubtlessly be along similar deceptive lines.

S. D.



### **How Are the Mighty Fallen!**

Of what avail is it to become the richest man in the world if one must be guarded night and day by armed men? Or what is the use of winning the title of the greatest giver of money if one must see the gifts accepted sullenly, with questionings as to the source and scepticism as to the motive? A runner may be the fleetest, yet retain the respect of his competitors; an artist may produce a sublime painting, yet be acclaimed by his rivals; a builder may erect a monumental structure, yet enjoy the homage of his fellows. But the man who piles dollar upon dollar until the number is past counting looks about him on faces of enemies and sycophants. The man who serves his fellows in trade or manufacture is no less worthy of praise than he who excels in any other field of human endeavor. But when efforts to serve are accompanied by acts of unfairness and dishonesty, then are the words of praise turned

to stinging reproach. Nor will any amount of giving of dishonest gains win the good will of the victims.



Mr. Rockefeller, who finds it necessary to increase the night watch about his house from four to eight men, and install various kinds of electric alarms, is himself a victim of the system by which he acquired his wealth. When ignorant law-makers, acting in accord with financial exploiters, legalized Privilege, and gave to some that which rightfully belonged to all, they established conditions that put a premium upon dishonesty. That Mr. Rockefeller profited more than others by these conditions does not mean that he is more deproved. Many of those whom he overthrew in the struggle for commercial supremacy were bent upon overthrowing him; and whether it was chance or superior ability that enabled him to succeed where the others failed should not weigh in the world's estimation of his worth. His real mistake is in supposing he can win the hearts of his fellowmen by means of charitable bequests, and munificent foundations in behalf of science and learning. Such exhibitions of generosity may win extravagant encomiums from the defenders of things as they are, but they will only increase the bitterness of those who look upon the benefactions as merely a part of immoral gains.



But one thing, and one thing only, can convince the general public of Mr. Rockefeller's sincerity, and make unnecessary the eight night watchmen who guard him while he sleeps. That thing is a recognition on his part of the equal right of all men to the use of the earth. Such an admission may cost him the temporary regard of a few beneficiaries of Privilege, but it will win him the hearts of mankind. So long, however, as he continues to believe that the earth and all the bounties of nature belong of right to those individuals whom ignorant lawmakers have clothed with title he will look into eyes flaming with hatred; and though he double his night watch again and again, until his vast fortune is expended in the maintenance of private retainers, yet will it avail him nothing. Sincere he may be, and a well-wisher of the race, yet conditions cry out against him. He can devote his great power toward re-establishing human rights, as did Joseph Fels, and receive the blessings of mankind; or can go on increasing his armed guard, and draw down upon himself the enmity of his fellows.

S. C.

### Baby Welfare Week.

Chicago has devoted a week to raising revenue, by means of voluntary contributions, for the better care of babies. The amount raised was not large; indeed, taking into consideration the number of babies needing attention, it is painfully small. That the babies need help is evident from the fact that nearly one fifth die in the first year. Why? Because the mothers do not know how, or are unable to take care of them. We spend vast sums of money to teach farmers how to raise hogs; but we must take up, by means of subscriptions, a few dollars to teach mothers how to raise children. Possibly the financial interests involved account for the difference. If hogs are decimated by cholera, the price of ham will advance. If a fifth of the babies die—well, the other four-fifths will keep up the population, and babies, unlike hogs, cannot be turned into cash.



But how does it come that there is no money to pay for the care of the babies? Every child that comes to Chicago, whether through Castle Garden or by the Stork Express adds to the site value of the city. When there was but one million people in Chicago its lands were worth much less than now. When it shall have three million people its lands will be worth much more than now. Only a part of this rental value of Chicago's land is taken for the care of the children. The fact that the remainder is left in the hands of those who do not make it, while there is such dire need of funds to save the little ones, might tempt the visitor from Mars to think Chicago the national asylum for the feeble minded—were it not for the fact that other cities are guilty of the same offense.

S. C.



### Cleveland's Good Example.

Since the days of Tom L. Johnson the city of Cleveland has been a leader among progressive municipalities. Now the first steps have been taken by its city council to inaugurate another reform. An ordinance was introduced on May 18 authorizing condemnation of property for a street extension. Included in the ordinance was a unique provision for acquirement by the city of land along the proposed street as well as of land actually needed for street purposes. This insures to the city the increased land values created by its expenditure in cutting through the street. Hitherto private land owners have been permitted to appropriate these values. They are still permitted to do so in nearly every American city but

Cleveland. Some accounts say that after the street has been constructed the city will sell its adjoining land. That would be a mistake. To make the new policy perfect the land should be retained and leased. Then if in the future the land should still further increase in value the city will have the benefit. If, on the other hand, values should decline, individual citizens will not be compelled to endure the loss. In either case the situation would be superior to what exists under present conditions. Cleveland's example deserves wide imitation.

S. D.



### Philosophy and the Unearned Increment.

"A scientific truth is a statement of which the opposite is inconceivable." And again: "A proposition of which the negative is inconceivable is necessarily true in relation to human intelligence."—John Fiske, in "Cosmic Philosophy." An almost universally admitted principle in trade is that capital is entitled to a fair return for its use, when it is employed in moral and legitimate business. The reverse of this proposition, constituting as it does, a negation of the foregoing, would violate the ethics of both interest and wages. Obviously the antithesis of a true proposition cannot also be true; yet just such an antithesis obtains when returns are secured from sources wherein there has been no investment of capital. Therefore, the owner of unused land, which accrues value by the investment of capital by owners of adjacent used land, is receiving returns on capital which he has not invested; he is receiving dividends on stock that consists entirely of water; he is receiving something for nothing; he is robbing the public by taking that which the public has earned and giving nothing in return therefor. In short, according to Fiske's Philosophy, the absorber of community-created wealth is a menace to community life, for the reason that his presence is a negation of a verified truth; his relation to the weal of the community is that of a down-puller instead of an up-lifter. By right, his name should be Dennis.

J. A. DEMUTH.



### A Sign of Progress.

Significant action, which may mark the beginning of a radical change in the policy of organized charities, was taken by the National Conference of Charities and Corrections in the meeting at Memphis beginning on May 12. This action was the appointment of a committee on social legislation to investigate, first, taxation reform as it relates to congestion and poverty; second, social

insurance. Encouragement is thus at last offered to those social workers who have labored so long in a seemingly hopeless effort to turn the attention of influential charitable organizations toward fundamental principles. The action appears to be similar to what was urged by Joseph Fels on the Conference of Charities which met in 1911 in Boston. Mr. Fels' suggestion embodied in a letter to the members was as follows: "If it is a fact that charity workers are anxious to learn how to remove the cause of poverty, would it be unreasonable to ask this conference to take some action in the matter? Why not, for instance, appoint a committee to report to your next meeting, the duty of the committee to be a thorough investigation of the merits of different proposed plans to put an end to poverty?"



No action was taken at that meeting on Mr. Fels' suggestion, but he sowed some seed, no doubt, that since has sprouted. This year Mrs. Mary Fels sent the Memphis conference a letter urging that her husband's suggestion be given attention. The idea was ably advocated by such workers as Alexander Johnson of New Jersey, Benjamin C. Marsh of New York, Judge A. B. Pittman of Memphis and others. Now that a start has been made it seems reasonable to look for further progress each year. Is it too much to hope that these meetings may yet become conferences, not of organized charity, but of organizations for justice?

S. D.

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## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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### SOUTH AMERICAN NEWS.

Buenos Aires, April 20.

Another link has at last been added to the chain of Republics or Provinces of Republics which in South America have declared for a system of taxation based on reason, equity and justice.

Readers of "The Public" already know that the Brazilian State of Rio Grande do Sul was the first to break new ground, closely followed by the President of Paraguay.\* Since then the Department of Montevideo, including the city of that name, has presented a bill to the Uruguayan Chamber decreeing that after the passing of the measure all taxes for city purposes shall be based on a tax on land values exclusive of improvements.

Now we have Governor Carcano of the Argentine Province of Cordoba presenting and strongly supporting a similar measure for the Province over which he rules.

True, neither the Montevidean nor the Cordoba measures are on the statute book, but those who, living in these Republics, have borne the heat of the

battle for fairer methods of taxation, believe that brighter days are at hand.

The rapid spread of ideas in favor of replacing the existing chaotic systems of taxation with one based on Land Value Taxation is largely due to the liberality of the late Mr. Joseph Fels. This gentleman assisted by placing 300 copies of the Spanish Singletax paper ("Impuesto Unico") at the disposal of a well known enthusiast who has been for years visiting the southern parts of South America and placed the paper in the hands of men, who, if convinced of the fairness of a proposed reform, and of the benefits of its adoption, could, off their own bat, do much to help get the reform on the statute book.

In addition to assistance from Mr. Fels, such enthusiasts as Dr. Felix Vitale, Dr. Manuel Herrera y Reissig, Professor Lasplaces, Sr. C. Cotello, all of Montevideo, have done splendid work; while in Argentina Sr. C. C. Vigil, Editor of "Mundo Argentino," Dr. T. Varsi, Dr. S. Barada, and Sr. J. Oliva Nogueira are always, along with Mr. Robert Balmer, busy with the Argentine section of the cause.

Another helper who has done good service is Sr. Baldomiro Argente, that enthusiastic Singletax journalist, who, writing from Madrid for a number of important South American papers published in Spanish, has sown seed broadcast, some of which is taking root in most unexpected places.

C. N. MACINTOSH.

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## PROGRESS IN CANADA.

Matsqui, B. C., April 28.

Vancouver has taken a step forward instead of backward. The City Council voted 11 to 4 to continue the policy of exempting improvements from taxation, and 10 to 5 to increase the tax rate 10 per cent, making the municipal rate 22 mills net.

Talking to real estate men in Vancouver yesterday, some of them declared that local land values had shrunk 50 per cent in the past year. As the assessment on land values was increased over 4 per cent over 1913 and the tax rate 10 per cent, this would be equivalent to an increased burden of 130 per cent on the planet grabber—provided that values have declined 50 per cent. Of course central business sites have not depreciated much, but in some of the outlying districts the decline has been even greater than 50 per cent.

But values are still abnormal—are still several times as high in proportion to population as in New York or Chicago. At the usual calculation of \$4 per head of population as the value of the choicest acre in the community, land on the corner of Hastings and Granville streets should not be worth more than \$700,000 per acre, yet I saw a sign board—beginning to look aged now, for want of paint—it looked fresher eighteen months ago when I struck Vancouver—on a corner several blocks from Granville and Hastings and not on a business street, bearing this magic legend: "This valuable corner for sale; buyer can assume the \$100,000 mortgage." The lot is a short

\*See Publics of February 20, page 175, and of April 3, page 321.

twentieth of an acre in extent and its only improvement is a decadent frame building.

A real estate man told me yesterday that no one would lend exceeding 30 to 40 per cent on a mortgage on Vancouver lots.

The next progressive step for the city to take is the adoption of the Somers system of assessment. There is considerable clamor for a more equitable assessment, and the current year will see commendable efforts in that direction on the part of the civic administration. Mayor Baxter declared recently that if Vancouver land values were assessed on a straight 60 per cent basis, the assessment would reach \$300,000,000, or double what it now is. In other words, the Mayor estimates Vancouver land values at \$500,000,000, whereas the assessment is only \$150,000,000.

Editor Taylor is doing a good work. His editorials are scholarly and on a high plane. Few days pass that he does not call attention to the Singletax in his editorial columns. His paper, the World, is quite easily the peer in all respects of the average daily in American cities of equal size, and far superior editorially. Its price has been reduced to 2 cents.

Considerable active opposition to improvement exemption in Vancouver was in evidence the past few months. It was led by F. C. Wade, K. C. president of the Burrard Publishing Company, publishers of "The Sun," the morning Liberal (?) organ. Mr. Wade is a heavy land gambler. The Balkan war caused a temporary tightness in the money markets. This was all that was needed to prick the highly attenuated Canadian land boom bubble. The suckers ceased to bite. They rarely even nibble now. Hence the wild ravings of such as Wade.

In Calgary, Alderman William Ross led the fight on exemption until the local faithful got a proper line on him. They dug up his assessments and found him to be burdened with the ownership of \$400,000 worth of city lots. That was a few months ago. Since then he has been gathered to his fathers.

A. FREELAND.

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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### HOW NEWSPAPERS MISREPRESENT FACTS.

Chicago, May 23.

There is abundance of evidence to be found in the late Governor Altgeld's, "Live Questions," containing reprints of his state papers, and in the report of Carroll D. Wright made after his enquiry here as United States Commissioner of Labor, to disprove almost every statement in the Chicago Record-Herald and Inter Ocean by John Howard Todd dealing with the great strike of 1894. The only authorities he can muster are the news columns of the daily papers comprised in the so-called Publishers' Association, which included all the English dailies of Chicago with the exception of the Times. These, let me say from personal knowledge, completely gave over their functions as disseminators of correct intelligence to the general managers of the railways centering in Chicago, who established a news bureau from which all the information printed was derived, even when staff reporters on the trust papers presented

to their city editors personally gathered facts completely contradictory.

Let me cite a personal experience. I was then the labor reporter of the Herald, in the fourth or fifth month of service as such. Returning one night from a Debs meeting on the west side with another reporter, we observed a disturbance on the Panhandle tracks under the viaduct we were crossing on the Lake street elevated road. We left at the first south side station and ran back. Descending to the tracks we heard the locomotive engineer of a passenger train roundly berating a green switchman, who had so mismanaged his apparatus that the forward wheels of the engine were on the main track, and the rear wheels on a switch—a preliminary to an accident, avoided in this case by the presence of mind of the engineer. I duly presented to my office a written report of the occurrence, which showed that the railway authorities were imperilling the lives of their passengers by employing switch tenders wholly unskilled in their important duties. The next morning, on opening my paper, I saw that my report had been killed, and there had been substituted for it the report written by the news agent of the general managers, which stated in effect that the strikers had deliberately derailed the train in question, thereby placing the lives of all on board in danger. It was an absolute misstatement, known to be such, put forth to deceive by both railway and newspaper authorities.

Similar gross perversions of fact were the ordinary daily babulum of all newspaper readers at a time when telling the truth was imperatively necessary if justice was to be done. I say all the papers, for even the Times, which was seeking to present the cause of the strikers, found the general preservation of order throughout the city so dull, in comparison with the sensational accounts of disorder presented by its contemporaries, that it, too, was forced into similar sensationalism nearly every day. The truth can only be learned today from men, like myself, who were personally familiar with the facts, from Wright's official report, and from Altgeld's pages, which contain first-hand information supplied from wholly disinterested sources for the purpose of enabling him to do his sworn duty as Governor in preserving order. From this last may also be obtained the official reports of the Chicago post office on the movement of mails, which completely strip from the federal authorities the pretense that they sent detachments of the regular army into Chicago for the purpose of securing the prompt disposition of the mails.

It is men like Mr. Todd, who prefer to disregard authentic and unprejudiced sources of information for gross lies made maliciously and for personal gain, who write the capitalistic histories from which American children obtain their information about the past. I do not see that this offers any excuse for Mr. Todd's similar perversions of fact, nor do I see why the new management of the Herald should care to maintain its ancient attitude toward the truth.

Allow me, also, to set your editorial comment right in a minor particular or two. The right of cross-examination was not denied the defense in the contempt proceedings before Judge Woods, and the

witnesses were ably cross-examined by Mr. Clarence Darrow, for the strike leaders. The criminal proceedings actually went to trial and a jury had been selected for the purpose. One of the jurors fell ill, however, and the case was never brought to a second hearing. I was, by reason of my newspaper connection, the principal witness for the government, and I wish to add, as a former member of the Chicago bar, my belief that my testimony, though the most important and essential upon which the prosecution had to rely, was wholly insufficient to warrant either the verdict as given in the contempt proceedings, or any verdict except that of acquittal in the criminal case.

WALLACE RICE.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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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 Monday, May 25, 1914.

### English Politics.

The Home Rule bill passed the House of Commons on May 25 by a vote of 351 to 274. The Unionists refused to debate. Having passed the House twice before in separate sessions, it now becomes law without consent of the Lords.

The Welsh church disestablishment bill passed the House of Commons on the 20th by a vote of 328 to 251. This bill, which has been a source of bitter contention, enjoys the distinction of being the first bill, aside from the budgets, to go upon the statute books under the new parliament act, which permits a bill, when passed three times by the Commons, to become a law in spite of the opposition of the Lords. The non-conformist denominations in Wales have long outnumbered the church people, but the national government has up to this time maintained the state church. [See current volume, page 487.]

The Unionists gained a seat in the Commons for Northeast Derby on the 20th. The Unionist received 6,469 votes, as against 6,155 for the Liberal, and 3,669 for the Laborite. This was a victory for Home Rule, but a defeat for the party. The bye election at Ipswich on the 23d resulted in a clear majority for the Unionist candidate. The Unionist received 6,406, the Liberal 5,784, and the Socialist 395.

### Mexico and the United States.

Representatives of Mexico and the United States gathered at Niagara Falls, Canada, on the 20th, under the auspices of the A. B. C. Mediators, the

Ministers of Argentina and Chile, and the Ambassador of Brazil. The Mediators presented to the American delegates for consideration a plan involving: 1. The elimination of Huerta, Carranza and Zapata from the government of Mexico. 2. Creation of a provisional government of a commission character in which shall be represented all the factions to the present conflict. 3. Agreement for a cessation of hostilities. 4. An election to be called and held under the auspices of the provisional government, at which none of the leaders of the factions now contending shall be candidates. [See current volume, page 488.]

The American delegates were disappointed that the land question had not been included. But the Mediators held this to be an internal question with which they had no concern. They were willing to make it a part of the subject if the American and Mexican delegates could agree upon a solution. President Wilson's general directions to the delegates are interpreted in the light of a published interview in which it was said the settled policy of the President in regard to Mexico includes: First. The United States, so long as Mr. Wilson is President, will not seek to gain a foot of Mexican territory in any way or under any pretext. Second. No personal aggrandizement by American investors or adventurers or capitalists, or exploitation of that country will be permitted. Third. A settlement of the agrarian land question by constitutional means—such as that followed in New Zealand, for example—will be insisted on.

The first full conference of the delegates was called on the 23d by the Mediators, at the request of the Mexican delegates. No definite conclusions have been arrived at, but there is a growing feeling of confidence that tangible results will follow. The Mexican delegates seem eager for an early agreement, before the Constitutionists menace the Capital. All negotiations are conducted in a friendly spirit. The elimination of Huerta, and the inclusion of the land question, seem to be taken for granted.

General Villa, commanding 4,000 men, defeated 4,500 Federals at Pasadon on his way to Saltillo. Nine hundred prisoners were taken, together with 9 pieces of artillery and 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition. The casualties were 49 killed and 109 wounded. Saltillo was evacuated by the Federals on the 20th, after looting the city. Reports are to the effect that the Federals will gather at Queretaro for a final stand. Queretaro, a city of about 40,000, and 110 miles northwest of the City of Mexico, was the scene of Emperor Maximilian's overthrow and execution. It was there also that

the treaty of peace between the United States and Mexico was signed in 1848.

General Villa, with Saltillo in his hands, is prepared to move southward with 25,000 men, striking first Zacatecas and then San Luis Potosi. General Gonzales is preparing to meet Villa with 7,000 veterans from Tampico, and General Obregon on the west coast has cleared the way to an advance into the interior. General Villa is moving his men with discretion, and maintaining easy communications with his base.



General Huerta's position, according to reports, grows daily more strained. Plots and rumors of revolt receive more and more credence. A conspiracy to assassinate the General is said to have been discovered; and numerous arrests followed. Negotiations are under way between Mexican officials and General Funston, in command at Vera Cruz, looking to the rebuilding of the four miles of railroad torn up by the Mexicans at the approach of the Americans.



#### Roosevelt Returns.

Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt landed in New York on May 19, after a long trip of exploration in South America along the Amazon. He has just recovered from a severe attack of jungle fever which he suffered in the wilderness. He denied the interviews claimed to have been made with him by the Hearst papers, in which he was represented as having declared unwillingness to accept the Presidential nomination from any other than the Republican party. In an interview on May 21 he expressed his intention to aid Gifford Pinchot in his Pennsylvania Senatorial campaign. [See current volume, page 442.]



#### Investigation of Railroad Mismanagement.

In resuming his testimony before the interstate Commerce Commission on May 19 Charles S. Mellen was cross-examined by Joseph W. Folk. In answering Mr. Folk's questions Mr. Mellen declared that in buying the Westchester road the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, of which he was then president, threw away \$30,000,000. It paid \$35,000,000 for a road worth no more than \$5,000,000. He placed responsibility for this on the late J. Pierpont Morgan of whom he confessed being in great awe and whose wishes he did not dare oppose. He was proud, he said, to be called "Morgan's man." He said also that Mr. Morgan had made him president of the Northern Pacific railroad. He told on May 21 of buying for \$19,000,000 the property of the Rhode Island Trolley Company in which former Senator Aldrich was interested. This property he said was worth no more than \$8,000,000. His salary as president

was first \$50,000 a year, later was increased to \$60,000, and then reduced to \$54,000. On May 22 he told of relations with the Grand Trunk road which resulted in a criminal indictment for violation of the Sherman anti-Trust law. This indictment, he said, he deliberately brought on himself, to shield J. P. Morgan Sr., to whom, he said, it really belonged. Later when J. P. Morgan Jr. spoke of dismissing him from the presidency, he brought up this service he had done the elder Morgan, who in the meantime had died. He said further that efficiency and economy in railroad management are only possible under absolute regulation and control by the United States Government. [See current volume, page 491.]



#### Congressional Doings.

The House of Representatives on May 19 adopted a rule limiting to thirty-two hours the debate on the Covington interstate trade commission bill, the Clayton interlocking directorate bill, and the Reycuburn railroad stock and bond issue bill. These are the administration's three anti-trust measures. [See current volume, pages 393, 491.]



The Senate on May 15, restored the appropriation to allow congressmen and senators twenty cents a mile for traveling expenses. This item had been stricken out by the House. On May 20 the Senate ratified the Treaty with fourteen foreign governments providing for suppression of offensive literature. [See current volume, pages 393, 439.]



#### Manufacturers' Association Meeting.

The National Association of Manufacturers in session at New York on May 19 discussed legislation, pending and proposed, bearing on industrial matters. The Mulhall affair has apparently encouraged some members to endeavor to bring about in the association a less hostile attitude toward radical reforms. One speaker, Mr. Howell Cheney, declared that the association had placed itself in the position of defender of special interests through evasion of "the responsibility of finding a solution of the common and general problems." In reporting for the committee on workmen's compensation F. C. Schwedtman said:

Social legislation is not going to stop at workmen's compensation and accident prevention, nor ought it to stop there. What are we going to do about the minimum wage laws which have been enacted in various States? Are we going to have universal sickness insurance, unemployment insurance, and old age pensions? How about occupational diseases and a legal shorter workday? Is strike insurance desirable? What is our platform upon woman and child labor? What are we doing to counteract the destructive tendencies of the I. W. W.?"

On May 20 the following resolutions were adopted:

Hostility to business must stop. With feelings of profound anxiety we observe prevailing industrial and commercial depression, wholly at variance with those healthy and prosperous conditions to which our country is entitled. On all sides productive industry and operative manufacture is shrinking in volume and output to a degree that forebodes years of slow recovery before prosperity can be restored.

We witness with amazement hostility toward established and legitimate business from many sources—journalistic, legislative, and even administrative—but we fail to detect any concerted and affirmative efforts to resuscitate business vitality or augment those great industrial forces that should express the sovereignty of our trade and commerce. The number of unemployed American workingmen, now hundreds of thousands, is increasing.

We affirm our conviction that unless there is a cessation of hostility to legitimate business the vitality of our commerce and trade will be critically impaired.

Another resolution condemns—

Those self-appointed or politically protected demagogues who seek to perpetuate themselves in the administration of public affairs by any means or measures, no matter what the economic effect, so long as such seem to promise temporary popular votes.

A third resolution pledges the association to the open shop. A broadening of the term "anarchist" in the immigration law was advocated to include all who advocate or practice sabotage. The use of the union label was condemned.



### The Labor War.

The testimony of Captain Edward F. Carson of the Colorado militia before the court martial at Denver on May 18 was to the effect that during the fire at Ludlow the discipline of the soldiers under his command was bad. He said he saw soldiers and civilians carrying away property of all kinds and that he succeeded in making some of them put back what they had taken. The order he had received from Mayor Hamrock through Lieutenant Lamme was to proceed to Ludlow and "smoke them out." Mayor Hamrock admitted to the court martial on May 20 that he himself had fired a machine gun near the tent colony where women and children were sheltered. He denied having ordered the tents to be burned, but said that after firing the machine gun several times the tents burst into flames. Hamrock was the last witness called. On May 21 a verdict was rendered, but it is sealed and will not be published until approved by the Governor and Adjutant General. [See current volume, page 491.]



Judge Ben Lindsey of Denver, accompanied by Mrs. Lindsey, by Mrs. Lee Champion of the Colo-

rado Women's Relief Committee, and by three women who had been through the Ludlow battle, called on President Wilson on May 21 to present a statement of conditions in the strike district. He declared Governor Ammons to be incompetent, and that violence would again break out should the federal troops be withdrawn. He suggested that federal authority be used to close the mines until both sides agree to submit their grievances to arbitration. He endeavored also to secure an interview with John D. Rockefeller Jr., but was refused. On May 21 the Denver Chamber of Commerce telegraphed to President Wilson that Judge Lindsey did not represent Colorado or its interests. Furthermore the chamber declared him to be a prevaricator moved only by self-seeking political designs. The Real Estate Exchange also denounced Lindsey.



The destroyed strikers' tent colony at Ludlow was restored on May 20, under guard of the federal troops.



A strike of all coal miners in Ohio was ordered by the United Mine Workers of America on May 18. The strike is due to refusal of the operators to make a new contract in accordance with a recent state law regulating the use of screens. Miners have not heretofore been paid for coal mined which would pass through a screen of a certain mesh. The last legislature passed an act designed to stop this screening practice. This led to the demand for a new contract.



The Federal Commission on Industrial Relations began in New York City on May 18 an inquiry into the cause of labor troubles. The first day's session was taken up with the testimony of city officials and charitable workers regarding fraudulent and harmful practices of some employment agencies, and regarding the maintenance of strike-breaking agencies under cover of private detective bureaus. On May 19 the testimony was taken of representatives of employing interests and of persons interested in employment agencies. A. Marr, secretary of the Lake Carriers' Association, told of the struggle with the Seamen's union. Testimony on May 20 related principally to child labor. Miss Anna Herkner of the Maryland Bureau of Labor told of difficulties in enforcing the child labor laws of that state. Speaking of the wooden box industry, where conditions are especially bad, she said the Bureau could do nothing because manufacturers do not listen to orders and continually threaten litigation, which the Bureau has no time to defend. Children in Maryland, she said, hardly ever reach the fifth grade of the public schools. Terence V. Powderly of the federal Department of Labor, advocated the issuing of in-

formation by the federal government telling where men were needed, but he opposed sending of men to take the places of strikers. On May 21, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, testified concerning that organization. He denied that it ever used coercive methods to get workers to join unions. He was questioned by Morris Hillquit, representing the Socialist party, regarding political activity of the federation. Gompers denied that the federation is a political body, but said "it will, however, try to help the workers along any line of political activity." He further declared that it had helped the workers to get a larger share of their labor products. He opposed a minimum wage law saying that history shows that such legislation always leads to industrial slavery. On the following day Morris Hillquit and Max Hayes, editor of the socialist paper, the *Cleveland Citizen*, declared themselves to harbor none but friendly feelings for the American Federation of Labor and that the same is true of the Socialist party.



#### National Conference of Charities.

The National Conference of Charities and Correction, in session at Memphis from May 12 to 15, decided in favor of a radical investigation of the causes of poverty. A committee was appointed to study and report on two subjects, (1) Taxation reform as it relates to congestion and poverty, (2) social insurance. The chairman of the committee is Prof. Henry R. Seager, of Columbia University; the other members are: John R. Commons, vice-chairman, Madison, Wis.; Roger Baldwin, St. Louis, Mo.; Frederick L. Hoffman, Newark, N. J.; Louis D. Brandeis, Boston, Mass.; John B. Andrews, New York City; Mrs. Florence Kelley, New York City; Rev. Harry F. Ward, Oak Park, Ill.; Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Portland, Ore.; Benjamin C. Marsh, New York City; Alexander Johnson, Vineland, N. J.; James Mullenbach, Chicago, Ill.; John Mitchell, New York City; John H. Ferguson, Baltimore, Md.; Jean Gordon, New Orleans, La.; Chas. P. Neill, N. Y. A letter from Mrs. Mary Fels urging action similar to that which was taken had been sent to all delegates. [See vol. xv, pp. 603, 610; vol. xvi, p. 684.]



An auxiliary meeting of members of the conference, but not officially a meeting of the conference, was held on May 15 to discuss "Tax Reform as Related to Congestion and Poverty." Alexander Johnson of New Jersey presided, and A. Y. Scott of Memphis was secretary. Mr. Johnson told of efforts he has made since 1897 to secure discussion of the Singletax at these conferences. The speakers all advocated heavier taxation of land values as a means of attacking poverty. Among these were Judge A. B. Pittman of Memphis, B.

C. Marsh of New York, George S. Wilson of Washington, D. C., Stewart Rice of Seattle, Bolton Smith, R. G. Brown, Charles Kelly, A. Y. Scott and Rabbi Freinsheiber of Memphis, A. Halbert of Kansas City, and Rev. J. A. Magruder of Baltimore.



#### Scandinavian Militarism.

In accordance with the spirit of the recent election the Swedish government has introduced a defense bill in the Swedish Parliament, providing for an annual expenditure of \$15,500,000 for the army, and \$7,000,000 for the navy. The new program includes the construction of eight battle-ships, and sixteen destroyers. [See current volume, page 494.]



Norway, also, is yielding to the spirit of insecurity. The integrity treaty signed by Russia, Germany, France and England, by which the neutrality of Norway should be observed in case of European war is questioned; and steps are being taken to increase the country's defenses. Parliament has lengthened service in the navy from six months to twelve months; and a bill is in preparation to lengthen the army service, which is now 144 days.

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## NEWS NOTES

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—In 1906 the Socialist party of France polled 877,999 votes. In 1910 the vote rose to 1,110,561, and in 1914 to 1,398,771.

—The California Home Rule in Taxation Amendment was endorsed on May 18 by the city council of Sausalito. [See current volume, page 465.]

—An initiative petition for municipal ownership of gas and electric light plants is being circulated in Grand Junction, Colorado. [See current volume, page 465.]

—Elections for eighty-eight members of the Belgian Chamber of Deputies were held on the 24th in the provinces of Liege, Limbourg, Hainaut, and Eastern Flanders. The relative strength of the several parties was not changed.

—Imports into Liverpool from the United States for 1913 amounted to \$361,494,734, of which \$25,283,749 were dutiable. Tobacco, dried plums, unrefined sugar, liquid glucose, cocoa, molasses and fruits containing sugar comprised the principal dutiable articles.

—No personal property tax return having been made by John D. Rockefeller as a resident of Cleveland, an arbitrary valuation of \$300,000,000 was returned for him by the deputy tax commissioner on May 20. Mr. Rockefeller claims non-residence. [See current volume, pages 158, 327.]

—Taxation in Western Canada will be discussed at the sessions of September 8 of the National Tax Association at Denver. Those participating will be Pro-

fessor A. B. Clark of the University of Manitoba, F. J. Dixon of Winnipeg, Secretary of the Land Values Taxation League and F. C. Wade, K. C. of Vancouver. [See current volume, page 419.]

—The California railway commission granted on May 21 a rehearing to the Pullman Palace Car Company on the charge of underpaying its porters. The commission charged the company with paying an average salary of \$27.50 to porters. This the company declares to be wrong. The correct figure, it declares, is \$32.85. [See current volume, page 442.]

—The seventh annual conference of Governors of the various States will be held from June 9 to 13 at the New Park Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin. The subjects for discussion will be rural credits. State control of natural resources, uniformity of laws regarding foreign corporations, extradition, and uniformity of safety and sanitation laws for factories. [See vol. xvi., p. 851.]

—The conference of the Progressive party of Minnesota at St. Paul on April 24 was erroneously reported to have endorsed the President's policy toward Huerta. The action that was taken was to "support the efforts of the President and Congress in the Mexican matter," but with the express understanding that this should carry no endorsement. [See current volume, page 419.]

—The Pennsylvania direct primaries on May 19 resulted in nomination by the Republicans of Boies Penrose for Senator and Martin G. Brumbaugh for Governor; by the Democrats of A. Mitchell Palmer for Senator and Vance McCormick for Governor; by the Progressives of Gifford Pinchot for Senator and William Draper Lewis for Governor. [See current volume, pages 123, 158, 363, 371.]

—Japan ratified on the 23d the arbitration treaty with the United States, which the American Senate ratified on the 23d of February. This treaty is one of a number negotiated by the American State Department pledging the contracting governments to arbitrate all questions excepting those affecting vital interests, independence, or national honor, and the rights of third parties.

—Cano Saddle, the dike 30 feet high and 1,200 feet long, twenty-five miles north of Gatun, built to prevent the waters of Gatun Lake from making their way through a low, narrow ridge to the Gulf of Mexico, has been completed. A remarkable feature of this work was the fact that, although 4,000 men were employed on the job, and malaria was very prevalent, no deaths occurred.

—Albania, the newly created political division in the Balkan Peninsula, of which Prince William of Wied has been made ruler by the powers, is in the throes of renewed revolution. The boundaries arbitrarily drawn by the powers include peoples who are determined not to belong to the new principality. A considerable force is in the field, and the capital, Durazzo, is threatened. Prince William sought refuge on board an Italian man-o'-war, but later returned to his palace, under the guard of Italian marines. [See current volume, page 206.]

—An initiative petition "to encourage the settlement and improvement of our back country" is being pushed in California by the Land Settlement League of which the secretary is James P. Cadman, 2406 I

street, San Diego. The petition is for a constitutional amendment requiring county boards to lease municipally owned lands to settlers in tracts of no more than twenty acres to each family. Counties are to loan each settler for house building purposes, when requested, a sum not to exceed \$250 to be repaid within seven years. Counties are further required, when requested, to hire each settler for work on the roads for three days each week. Where a county does not own enough land for this purpose it is empowered to acquire more by condemnation proceedings.

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## PRESS OPINIONS

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### Arbitration and Mediation.

Harper's Weekly, May 16.—The offer of mediation between the United States and the Huerta regime on the part of the A B C republics of South America—Argentina, Brazil and Chile, is an event of world importance and of far-reaching consequences, regardless of their success or failure in restoring constitutional government in Mexico. It is an open secret that the Vatican has taken an interest in these proceedings, and perhaps was most influential in persuading the Usurper to accept. It is well to bear in mind the distinction between arbitration and mediation. When two parties in controversy submit to arbitration, they are bound to accept whatever award the arbitrators decide upon, but in mediation neither side is bound to accept the proposals of the other or to recede from its own demands. That the elimination of Huerta from Mexican affairs was one of the demands which the United States would make, was a foregone conclusion; and those who have studied the history of Mexico for the last three years know that the failure of the Madero government was due to his compromise with the old Cientifico element.



### Praise from Sir Hubert.

The Socialist Review (London) April.—So little do we know what are the "real" or "hidden" purposes that determine the particular moves of our statesmen at home, that we are not unlikely to misjudge those of statesmen in countries abroad. And in no country are the motives of political leaders more suspect than in America by friends and foes alike. The present President of the United States is not exempt from criticism and detraction, the sharpest shafts of which are levelled against him from the ranks of his own party. Nevertheless, we feel bound to say that judged by the usual standards, and accepting his policy and actions in accordance with all we know of his public career, President Wilson appears to us to be one of the best Presidents the United States has had, and perhaps the most lofty-minded head of the State in the world at this hour. That tribute we pay him wholly irrespective of anything he has said or done with respect to the relationship between the United States and this country. We think he is striving against tremendous difficulties—difficulties arising from his own side as well as the political opposi-

tion—to arouse and establish a new civic conscience in the American legislature. He is quite devoid of the vulgar, self-assertive, and self-advertising manner of Roosevelt. He wins his purpose not by clenching his teeth and shaking his fist like a saloon bully, but by giving his opinion and sending out his orders as would a thoroughly competent engineer, architect, or surgeon. Towards Mexico, as towards China, he has played, or tried his best to play, a fair game. His declaration against the clause in the Panama Act granting free tolls to American coasting steamers, and his success in getting a bill through the Senate to repeal the clause, deserves the applause of every Internationalist. We have never shared the view of the commercial press of this country and Europe, that the provision giving coast-trade vessels of the United States a preference over ocean-bound ships of other countries was either clearly a violation of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty or a wholly unreasonable concession (while tariff preferences exist at all) to the trade interests of the United States that financed and engineered the Panama scheme. But the fact that President Wilson, alike in the interests of the canal and in order to remove any feeling of resentment in foreign countries, has abrogated the preferential dues redounds greatly to his honor. It is a most notable step toward International amity and peace—a fine signal call of concord to the whole world.



#### Charity Does Not Cover Injustice.

Collier's Weekly, May 16.—The coal and iron companies which operate in the war district of Colorado are controlled by men supposed to be among the wealthiest and most enlightened in this country. We have heard for years of their gifts to science, to education, and to religion. They have built sanitary houses for workmen, furnished free entertainment and medical advice, and all that. Why then this hell of slaughter and destruction? Because they have left out the one essential thing: Human Justice. You do not supervise a remote mining camp by officially issuing "strict instructions" for company storekeepers and camp marshals and superintendents who despise men. You will not pacify Trinidad, Colo., by writing elegant essays in New York City on "matters of principle." John Ruskin, in the fortieth paragraph of his lecture on "Work," speaks of

that motto of the poor half-way Mahometan: "One hour in the execution of justice is worth seventy years of prayer."

The Rockefeller and other great mining interests must learn this by heart and put it into action before peace can come to Colorado.



#### Embarrassing the Preachers of Mammon.

Cleveland Press, May 14.—The young artist who asked John D.'s New York pastor whether, as a preacher of the word of God, he thought that Jesus would uphold the oil king's attitude toward the Colorado strikers, of course asked a leading question. But it was a proper and pertinent question, and the minister, by turning his back and walking

away, did not dispose of it. The ministry must face the problems of today with ethical counsel based on the teachings of Christianity, or suffer a collapse of credit. They cannot find refuge behind silence or generalities. The Good Book is very plain in its assertion that a man cannot serve God and Mammon. "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve."



#### The Universal Cause of Hard Times.

Grain Growers' Guide (Winnipeg), May 13.—One of the great causes of trade depression in Canada is over-speculation. Up to a year ago a large proportion of the people of this country were crazy for real estate speculation. Instead of savings of the people being employed to build homes, cultivate the soil and establish industries, they were used to speculate in real estate and to prevent the land being put to use. Meanwhile the money required for building, agriculture and other industries was being borrowed chiefly from Great Britain. During the past year those with money to invest in Great Britain and foreign countries have been less willing to lend it to Canadian borrowers, and Canada has discovered that without borrowed money she cannot, under present conditions continue to prosper. Speculation for the time being is practically at a standstill, thousands of speculators have been ruined or crippled and several, driven to despair by their difficulties, have committed suicide. A great number of professional real estate men, however, have either secured useful employment or are seeking it. If they can be induced to refrain from starting another boom conditions will soon become normal again and prosperity will once more smile upon us. The regrettable thought is that as soon as good times do return there will be another period of speculation and inflated land values, and another period of hard times will follow. Cannot our statesmen and economists find some means of preventing speculators from repeatedly destroying the country's prosperity? The speculator is a parasite, and should be taxed out of business.



#### Where Land Has Been Freed.

Christian Science Monitor (Boston), April 13.—There will be the usual objection to the experiment by Bolton Hall, near Berkeley Heights in New Jersey, that it is undertaking to reverse the order under which land has been occupied and "improved," and that it must in its operation, therefore, mean disturbance of what people have come to accept as ordained conditions. Mr. Hall found seventy acres of land in captivity and determined to set it free with the purpose of putting into practice the theory of Singletax. It was necessary that the land should be set free, because freedom is its primal condition, and it also was necessary that those occupying it should make good use of it, for land was not intended to be idle. Equally necessary was it that those who improved the land should profit by the improvement. The entire scope of Singletax could not be realized within seventy acres, but its principle could be illustrated in patches representing mere fractions of that area. In this experimental settlement instead of having to buy or rent a place, one

may come into possession of a homestead by paying to oneself each year what it is worth to live there. The leaseholders elect their assessor and their treasurer; the assessor fixes the rents in accordance with the value of the land; the treasurer then collects the rents and uses them to pay all taxes levied against the leaseholder; the balance goes for roads, water supply, surveys, park making and other purposes. The tax takes the place of rent; the rental covers not only the rent, but taxes and the cost of all improvements; the community is a joint stock, mutual benefit organization; there is incentive for all, unequal burdens for none. The colony of "Free Acres" is called experimental here, but only for the sake of convenience. It is only experimental in the sense that it is an attempt to exemplify Singletax practically in surroundings that are almost wholly unfavorable. The land values developed by the colonists there must overflow beyond the seventy-acre limit, therefore the enhancement does not all go to the credit of the community, but it is easy to agree with those interested that even within circumscribed limits, the plan affords an object lesson in Singletax by showing how practical it is that all rents should be collected by the community through its elected officers and applied to the payment of taxes and public improvements. The demand for taxation reform is now heard on every side. It is almost universally admitted that taxes are not either skillfully or equitably levied. Perhaps there could be no more opportune time for the presentation of the experiment in process at Berkeley Heights, N. J., and no more opportune time for a careful study of it.



#### The Truth About Ludlow.

New York Globe and Commercial Advertiser, May 8.—In regard to the Ludlow massacre the Senate of Colorado, in a formal resolution, declares: "Blame for the horror rests on the imported assassins who masqueraded as sons of Colorado in the uniform of the National Guard." This declaration coincides with and emphasizes previous findings by the coroner's jury and the federal grand jury, and the practical confession of guilt by the military court that endeavored to whitewash the tragedy. It is established that murder was committed at Ludlow—that the guardians of society, whose sworn duty was to protect the sheep, turned wolves and devoured their charges. In one of the companies of alleged militia that shot down men and burned women and children were thirty mine guards—that is, mercenaries of the mining companies—and seventy were clerks, bosses, engineers, and others in the employ of the mining companies. This "national guard" company was never mustered into the state's service, never held a drill, never elected any officers, and never was paid by any one except the mining companies. Is it strange civil war broke out when government expressed itself in such form? The miners of Colorado, foreign-born though many of them are, showed themselves true Americans by resisting such a military machine. The resolution of the Colorado Senate further declares that the strike has continued through the refusal of the operators to enter any sort of arbitration conference. Thus is a quietus put on the contention of Mr. Rockefeller that the

issue was one of the "closed shop" and that he was bound in honor not to discharge employes who did not wish to join the unions. The strike is because the companies have refused to permit miners to join unions, a right guaranteed to them by the laws of Colorado. The experiment of government in violation of essential American principles has been tried in Colorado, and it has failed. The Mexican system which has been set up does not work better there than in Mexico. It is time to go back to the old American system, under which one man's right was as good as another's, and the danger of upholding order by illegal means was recognized.

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## RELATED THINGS

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

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#### WEALTH.

For The Public.

In raiment richly wrought of fine spun gold,  
 She moved in luxury along her way;  
 She smiled upon me and my quiet day  
 Was filled with that wild longing known of old.  
 A blinding spell was on me and its hold,  
 All swiftly bore me in her train away;  
 I was her lover, so I thought, for aye;  
 And filled with careless valor, loud and bold.

A day there came—I touched her garment's hem:  
 Her hand she put in sudden kindness out,  
 And tremblingly I kissed it. Not a doubt  
 Was mine. Her lips, she meekly yielded them.  
 'Twas not till then I clearly understood—  
 But where she touched me—oh, the smears of  
 blood!

RICHARD WARNER BORST.



#### SIMPLETONS.

For The Public.

"Old Frank," as everyone called him, was dead; he had lived alone in his cabin in the rocks and he was alone when he died. The few neighbors came together, performed the last kindly offices, laid him to rest under a giant pine tree on his little farm. His life was over; he was gone from sight, a lonely, hard-working, worn-out old man who had suffered much with ill health, and yet was always cheerful.

Frank's fences went to pieces, cattle browsed his orchard trees and destroyed his garden, the drain-ditches filled up, the best land slipped back into marsh, the springs were trampled in, the rude buildings began to fall down, and ten or twelve years went by like a dream.

Nobody seemed to remember Old Frank. His tools, wagon and few goods had been sold at auction to pay the funeral expenses, the land went to distant relatives and was finally sold for a small sum. New people began to make a home

there, enjoyed Old Frank's great chimney, the rocks for which, as an Indian told them, had been picked up one by one and carried to the spot by the pioneer in a gunny sack.

"Him good rock; he stand fire; Old Frank know dat fus-rate."

But the dead pioneer long remained unreal to the new-comers, who cleared land, planted trees, reclaimed wet places, restored and rebuilt the cabins. At last, one afternoon in winter the head of the new family of mountaineers found out something about "Old Frank." There was a wild December storm, and this man, riding through the mountains came to a torrent which had swept away the bridge. His horse had swum many a river in flood, but this one roared through the canyon, rolling down rocks and tree trunks until the noise rose to the heights. Besides, the precipice on the further side was too steep for a horse to climb. So the man turned off into the woods and hunted up the Jenks cabin where he was made welcome.

White-haired "Old Man Jenks" sat by his fire-side that night and surveyed his guest.

"You be that new feller what bought old Frank's place on Malum Ridge?"

"That's me!" the man said, smiling to himself. He had lived there for nine years but he was still a "new feller." Somehow he liked that way. "Slow and sure!" he thought.

"Woll!" old Jenks went on, "I don't know ye, as yet. Know ye by sight, but don't know what ye'll do in a tight place. But ye had ort ter be a decent feller a-livin' where Old Frank lived an' died."

"Tell me about him," the man said. "My wife and I sometimes think that Old Frank knows how much we love the place which he pulled right out of the forest."

"Do ye?" said the pioneer. "Well, ye're dead right. He must know all about it. Old Frank was jest as square a man as Abe Lincoln. We don't talk about him very often—we first-comers, but we remember. Onct"—

He paused, sat in reflection, filled his pipe, and then began:

"When Old Frank came here he had three thousand dollars, an' he took up his place an' started in on improvements. Then he lost his money, lendin' it to some swindlers, an' he got sick an' had an all-fired time keepin' alive raisin' a few vegetables an' peddlin' about.

"Well, onct I was sellin' a wagon-load of little hawks, an' Frank he came along.

"'Frank,' I says, 'buy one, an' fat it on acorns.'

"'Can't,' he answers, 'Haint no money.'

"'That don't count,' I tells him. 'Ef ye bought one, which one would ye like?'

"So Frank an' I we talked hawks awhile an' Frank he picks out a spotted one an' says that one were a beaut.

"'Take him along, Frank,' says I, 'at three dollars, an' pay me this year, or next, or later.'

"Then Frank looks at me an' his face lit up. 'You sure are a good neighbor to me,' he answers, an' he begins to count on his fingers an' figger on that three dollars.

"Well, this was the end of June, an' finally Frank says: 'Best I can do will be to pay that on the first of November. Ef that suits, neighbor, I'll come to your home November first with the money.'

"'Ef its handy,' sez I, an' we put the little spotted hawk in Frank's old wagon.

"Well, it come November, an' we had early rains an' heavy ones, an' snow. I heard Frank was poorly, an' coughin', an' raisin' blood, an', as ye know, it's four good miles, nearer five, by the trail from this place to your cabin that was Frank's then."

The man nodded, thinking of the scene—and of the plain folk of the hills, whom he loved with his whole heart.

"It rained hard all day," the pioneer said, "but about noon Frank he comes in, wet to the bone, an' gives me them silly three dollars, an' I up an' calls him a fool, a plumb crazy fool. An' I, said much worse nor that.

"Then he laughs at me in that nice way no other man ever had, an' a-coughin' with every other word he says: 'Them's mean words, neighbor, a-namin' me crazy an' sich. But ef I hadn't trotted over here today ye'd a-called me a cheat, an' a liar, an' that's a heap worse!' Of course I seen that too.

"I kep' him that night an' we had a mighty good time a-tellin' each other about when we were boys, an' in the mornin' I tuk my flour sack unbeknownst ter Frank, an' emptied it, an' told him I was clear out, an' had ter go down the ridge ter the Northfork store an' get grub, an' so I tuk him home. 'Bout a year after I helped ter bury him."

By now the tears were running down the pioneer's cheeks. "Best man ever lived in these woods," he said. "Stranger, ef that's your home, ye've got somethun ter live up ter."

"So I have!" the man said. "When he rode away, after the storm broke, he was still thinking about the pioneers. "I begin to understand them." he thought. "They are of the stock from which Nancy Hawks came."

A few years later he told the story in a town to illustrate something. Said a listener, "Fool business! Two darned old simpletons! Why couldn't that sick feller have written a letter, or left the three dollars at the store?"

"You miss the point entirely, my friend," the narrator said. "Lincoln once, when helper in a store, made an error of two ounces in weighing out some tea. When it came to him he jumped out of bed—after a hard day's work—took the

two ounces, walked four miles and back, and gave the old woman her tea. Was Lincoln a simpleton or was that—just Lincoln's way?"

"Don't know," the listener replied.

"Well," the narrator said, "the American people know. They somehow believe in such things. Lincoln and Old Frank and, as I suspect, Jenks, the seller of 'little hawgs,' were all three of them 'simpletons.' But someday everyone will be just like that."

CHARLES HOWARD SHINN.



## SINGLETEX AND THE HOUSEHOLD PROBLEM.

For The Public.

Look through the "Female Help Wanted" columns of any city newspaper and you will see scores of advertisements for domestic servants, with comparatively few for help in offices, stores, and factories. Press dispatches recently gave account of several thousand female applicants for employment at the Los Angeles municipal employment bureau, nearly all of them objecting to taking employment as domestic servants, but grasping eagerly at other work at mere pittance. Many caste-imbued women of European stock make docile domestic servants; but the daughters of a race with the freedom of centuries in its veins avoid "domestic service" except as a last resort—thousands, indeed, spurn it even as the *last* resort.

Many thoroughly well-meaning women "wonder why." How, they say, can a girl prefer to work long hours in a laundry, when she might have a home full of refining influences, with a comfortable room—somewhere up the back stairs—and better wages than she can get in any other line of "common" work? Of course no sensible girl would want to dine with the family, and history records only a single instance of a servant's having received her guests in the parlor. Yet the fact remains, domestic servants are scarce; and if that is true, with labor conditions as they are today, the supply will certainly be no greater when the social ideal of tomorrow is achieved.

For the masses of women the servant girl problem has no terrors. For them it is merely a matter of accomplishing forty-eight hours' work in twenty-four. Yet at bottom theirs is the same problem as that of their more fortunate sisters: how to lessen the burden of household drudgery. Surely no problem could be more worth solving, and to the task the brains of many men as well as women are devoted. That progress is being made is attested by the many labor-saving devices that have been and are being perfected for household use—the sewing machine, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, kitchen utensils, the electric light, hot and cold water at the turn of a faucet, the steam laundry—there has even been suggested a model laundry, which shall clean and yet re-

turn the goods *whole*—bake shops, with an enlarging field of possibility, not forgetting the cotton gin, weaving machinery, and other factory machines designed to lighten household tasks. Surely our grandmothers and their families must have lived the simple life.

But what has all this to do with the Singletax? Any unshelved Singletaxer would answer the question offhand. So long as the earnings of the industrious portion of the community are confiscated by the non-industrious, through confiscation of the "unearned increment"; so long as industry is stifled by the twin burdens of landlordism and taxation, with all the waste and needless duplication of effort that springs from an unsound social state; just so long will unemployment and a hard struggle for livelihood be the lot of the average family. Under such conditions only the fortunate few of the women of the world have access to the bulk of these home-labor-saving devices. Our women, therefore, have a common cause with the rest of the world's laborers, the cause involved in securing a just distribution of the benefits of advancing civilization. But beyond that, with the dawn of a better social order, come glimmerings of a broader life for women—of a life which shall conserve the best of the home life, and add to it more of the life of the outside world. The intensity of the household problem, as well as of many another "problem" of the day, will vanish away when the Cat is painted out of the landscape.

HARRY W. OLNEY.

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## BOOKS

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### MEXICO AND THE LAND QUESTION.

**The Mexican People: Their Struggle for Freedom.**  
By Guitierrez de Lara and Edgcomb Pinchon.  
Published by Doubleday, Page & Company, Garden City, New York. 1914. Price, \$1.50 net.

No peace lover who is for democracy as well as peace could have been betrayed into hostility to the Administration's Mexican policy had it been interpreted to him in the light of this convincing history. It is the story of the hundred years' war of Mexican democracy against Mexican despotism. Knowing what few Americans do, that "the Mexican people have democratic traditions as grand, pure, and sane as those of any race in the world," knowing too that "they have suffered bitterly at the hands of their own master classes" and been the "prey of the foreign exploiter as well," these sympathetic historians furnish the very information that is needed, not only to understand the Wilson-Bryan policy for preventing war with Mexico, but to stir in the American mind a fraternal spirit toward the Mexican peo-

ple. Beginning with the revolution of 1810 under the patriotic priest, Hidalgo, and closing with the military progress of the Constitutionalists in 1913, this history lays bare the terrible experiences of the Mexican masses in their patient efforts to recover land and liberty under law—under better laws in many ways than we boastful “Saxons” can truly claim our own to be.

Their struggle of a century has been animated by the longing of Mexican peasants to democratize Mexican land. Hidalgo led the first revolt. The land was in process of restoration to the people for tillage when he, betrayed to the aristocracy by one of his own officers, was condemned and shot for “treason.” But the hundred years’ war had only begun. Under the leadership of Morelos, the first Constitution was adopted in 1813. It recognized equality of citizenship and established liberty of the press, a free ballot, abolition of personal taxation, partial abolition of land monopoly, and the popular initiation of laws. In 1815 the pendulum swung backward again. Morelos also was executed. Still the war went on, and the pendulum once more swung forward. A new Constitution was adopted in 1824—though for national independence rather than popular freedom—and Guerrero, the great Mexican “Commoner,” became President. Guerrero abolished the last vestige of chattel slavery, and loosened the bonds of peon servitude. His successor, however, was treacherous to the people, and there was despotic reaction again. But again not for long. The democratic spirit came uppermost in 1833, when for a little while popular government resumed its sway, but only to be thwarted by revivals of the old aristocratic, ecclesiastical, and military conspiracies. Through these, Santa Ana vaulted into the dictatorial saddle.

At this time Mexico offered temptations to the American slave-ocracy similar to those which have more recently made American plutocracy keen for war, and our war of conquest began. Its passions have lingered in Mexico all these years. The Mexican people have distrusted us ever since. Nor without reason. Our object in making war upon Mexico remembered, and the efforts of American investors in Mexican concessions to precipitate another war of conquest considered, why should they not be distrustful?

On both sides, that war of Santa Ana’s day was “a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight,” as most wars are. It served to solidify the Mexican classes while it lasted, but when it was over the long-drawn-out Mexican civil war of 1810 revived. The revolutionists under Alvarez were triumphant at first in this democratic revival, but his successor, Comonfort, was soon afterward displaced by upper class conspiracies. Conciliatory to those propertied interests of his country which never in any country conciliate except to gain leverage for

a vicious spring, Comonfort ended his life in exile.

Meantime, however, the Constitution of 1857—perhaps the most advanced democratic constitution in history—was adopted. It declared that the right to landed property depends upon occupation, and that this requisite cannot exist “unless the land be worked and made productive.” Described by the authors of this history as “the exact expression of the Mexican people as distinguished from the church, army, and aristocracy,” the democratic Constitution of 1857 had been forty-seven years in the making. For fifty-seven years following, the Mexican peasantry have fought for it against treachery within and speculation from without. They are fighting for it yet.

But their long war approaches its end under circumstances that warrant confidence, both among Mexicans and among ourselves, in the determination of the United States and the “A B C powers” of South America to protect the Mexicans from outside machinations and thereby from inside treason to democracy. The democratic peace for which the masses of Mexico have fought so long and which they are recently beginning again to win may this time be secured by the great American powers against those financial conspiracies which have heretofore succeeded in producing reactions and establishing plutocratic dictatorships.

Not only did the Mexican Constitution of 1857 demand the land of Mexico for the industrious people of Mexico; it expressly recognized that “the rights of man are the foundation and the purpose of social institutions,” that “everyone is born free,” that education must be free, that “every man is free to adopt the profession, trade or work that suits him (it being useful and honest) and to enjoy the product thereof,” that “no man shall be compelled to work without his plain consent and without just compensation,” that “the liberty of writing and publishing writings upon any matter is inviolable,” that religious institutions shall not own real estate except buildings used immediately and directly for their own services, and that there shall be no law establishing or forbidding any religion.

The ecclesiastical attempts to overthrow this Constitution, aided by foreign influences, were unsuccessful, thanks to the patriotic leadership of Juarez, until France established an imperial throne in Mexico with Maximilian upon it. When Maximilian’s throne toppled, Juarez came again into high service, and for nine years made that splendid Constitution of 1857 a living thing. He remained the people’s President from 1867 until his death, being again and again elected by free popular vote. During this golden reconstruction period Mexican peasants peacefully tilled the little farms that had been carved for them out of great estates under their Constitution of 1857.

But when Juarez had passed away, Diaz came into power. This was in 1876. With what the authors call "the Diaz myth" we are all familiar. The civilizing work done by Juarez has, by iteration and reiteration, been falsely attributed to Diaz. If our two authors are truthful, and they certainly seem to be, then all the encomiums that have been passed upon the Diaz administrations belong of right to those of his predecessor. His own work consisted not in building up the Mexican democracy, but in turning democratic Mexico into despotic and barbarous Mexico.

It was under Diaz that the Constitutional land reforms of Juarez were swept away by stupendous frauds made effective by unbridled power. It was under him that the degrading land monopoly system against which the people had fought, which under the Presidency of Juarez they had more than begun to conquer and which under Villa and Carranza they are today reconquering, was restored. The details are shocking. Industrious peasants were evicted summarily from their little holdings, lawlessly and without even an investigation of their rights. The Diaz policy was the immediate cause of a renewal of this hundred years' war, the modern echoes of which we have been recently hearing from Torreon, Tampico, Saltillo, San Luis Potosi, and even from the City of Mexico.

Its first great achievement in our day was the displacing of Diaz by Madero. With this democratic victory the war was apparently over. The Constitution of 1857 had come again into friendly hands for execution, and the evicted peasants naturally expected the restoration of the working opportunities that had been confiscated under Diaz. But European and American despoilers of Mexico found another Diaz in Huerta. This dictatorship might have been as secure as that of Diaz had the United States and the "A B C powers" recognized Huerta as the Constitutional President of Mexico. He was not so in fact, however, and those four powers deserve the highest credit for their refusal to recognize him. On the part of the American authorities the refusal required no little moral courage, for the pressure of powerful American investors for a war of conquest against Mexico was enormous and progressively difficult to turn aside. Fortunately, however, we have a President and a Secretary of State who are averse to war, and notwithstanding the pressure upon them, no war was made. But he who imagines that the Administration could have prevented a war of conquest by ignoring conventional causes for war, takes little account of the belligerent influences that were plainly at work.

The Vera Cruz episode has already defeated the efforts of the Interests to precipitate a war of conquest. It is doubtful if anything more pacific in appearance could have done so. Even as it is, probably nothing but the complete triumph of the

Constitutionalists in Mexico can frustrate the American and other foreign influences that seek sordidly for an invasive war. And probably nothing but the friendly and intelligent co-operation of the powerful democratic and peace-loving nations of this hemisphere can secure immunity to the Constitutionalists when in power from the disorganizing conspiracies promoted by agents of American and European exploiting interests. In the past hundred years conspiracies such as these have set back the democracy of Mexico again and again. In the future, also, will they do it again and again unless the great powers of our hemisphere unite to stand by the Mexican people in their Constitutional policy of placing the democratic government in Mexico which it is now manifest must soon dislodge the Huerta dictatorship, upon the firm foundation of "the land for the people."

"The Mexican People," this new and impressively true story of a people's war of a century for land and liberty against parasitical classes, is a book to stir the noblest impulses of our own citizens and to illuminate one of the splendid pages of our own history in its making. The land question is the core of this struggle by Mexican peasants for equal rights and by their adversaries for monopoly privileges. Until the land question in Mexico is settled, and settled right or in the right direction, the hundred years' war in Mexico, now well into its two hundredth year, will not end. There can be no permanent peace there until the land of Mexico has been democratized.

LOUIS F. POST.



**It is the business of the tailor to create gentlemen, and sometimes the creature is equal to his creator.**

F. R. H.



When its full significance is considered, perhaps the most important aspect of a school system's efficiency pertains to the system's success in attracting and holding pupils who have passed the age up to which the law compels attendance. Attracting and holding pupils in school is not, of course, the same thing as educating them efficiently; it is, however, a prerequisite to such education; moreover, it furnishes, in the long run, strong evidence of the value of the instruction given, for the judgment of youth eager for the activity and independence of the unschooled world is not prone to over-rate the school's service. Moreover, the significance of a school system's success in holding pupils beyond the compulsory age is not limited to the instruction afforded voluntary attendants; it is almost or quite as significant of the instruction given those compelled to attend. For whether a child remains in school after he is free to leave, depends at least as much on what the school has done for him as it does on what the school now offers.—Frank E. Spaulding, at the meeting of the New England Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

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—They Who Knock at Our Gates. By Mary Antin. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, 1914. Price, \$1.00 net.

—The Joy of the Working. By Howard Vincent O'Brien. Published by Mitchell Kennerley, New York, 1914.

—Social Justice Without Socialism. By John Bates Clark. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, 1914. Price, 50 cents net.

—The New Politics and Other Papers. By William Garrott Brown. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, 1914. Price, \$1.75 net.

—Socialism: Promise or Menace? By Morris Hillquit and John A. Ryan. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York, 1914. Price, \$1.25 net.

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## PERIODICALS

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### "An Anti-Slavery Journal"

Land and Liberty, of which William C. Owen is editor, publishes its first number, May 1, from Hayward, California. Announcing himself as against "the State"—which, as he views it, "robs and protects robbers" and piles crime on crime through a whole paragraph—Mr. Owen is also against "monopoly in land," and speaks for individual liberty: "The disinherited in action is the important figure and his record we shall try to follow carefully." "We believe in organization, but of free men and women not of landless slaves."

A. L. G.



### When Radicals Laugh.

Any Atlantic Monthly reader—or non-reader—was unfortunate who missed in the May number Seymour Deming's essay, "Our Instinctive Idiocies." Its body of truth and soul of wit combine to put conservatism to the sword of ridicule and radicalism into the saddle of popularity with Everyman—until his own pet idiosyncrasy is transfixed. And this reminds one: There's a joker in the very title of the essay. Nowhere but in its first word does the author claim for himself any share in the idiocies. Surely such a philosopher-humorist as he, has not forgotten how we are each a divided house that lodges rheumatic conservatism in at least one room somewhere. Or is the writer really a violent radical? One is left to do one's own guessing. But Mr. Deming's collection of idiocies is the thing—almost as delectable as his own comments. He invites attention to the "subtle wit" of this:

Magistrate: "What is this man charged with?"

Officer: "Your Honor, he was arrested for free speech." and this intimate view of the employing mind:"

Thus the philanthropist: "My father-in-law who could hire a valuable man for less money than anybody I ever knew, used to say, 'A man ought to be worth twice what he is being paid.'"

"These," says the author, "are the lapses which sweeten and solace the souls of radicals, and fill

them with a wild and mystical joy." For, he explains later, "There has been one thing and one thing only, happening since the beginning of the world: a battle between the party of obstruction and the party of change. The party of obstruction is foredoomed to make one tactical blunder after another, as the apostle knew when he sang, 'He hath blinded their eyes.' This hopelessness, this initial futility, of the programme of repression, once comprehended, is the most profoundly encouraging lesson of world-history."

A. L. G.

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## PAMPHLETS

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### The Shovelcrats.

Readers desiring an hour or two of pleasant diversion should not overlook *The Shovelcrats* (being a report of Special Commissioner John William Jones to the directors of the Dry Lake Excavation Company. Timby's Book Store, Ashtabula, Ohio. Price 10 cents.) In this delightful little pamphlet of 40 pages—whose real author is J. Craig Ralston, of the Milwaukee Journal—appear all the errors, all the near-facts, and all the absurd arguments that masquerade under the guise of established political economy, done into the cleverest satire on the monopolistic theory of land-ownership. It rollicks with broad humor, and fairly scintillates with a wit that makes the old theories grotesque. Those who have failed to apprehend the land question, will here find it unescapable; those who see it as through a glass darkly will see it clearly; while those who now see and understand it all will find most delightful entertainment.

S. C.



### Pamphlets Received.

*The Picket Line of Democracy in America: An Address* by J. F. Cronin at Seattle, Wash., March 17, 1914.

*Henry George and the Economists.* By C. B. Filibrown, 77 Summer St., Boston. 1914. Price, 5 cents post-paid.

*Nature City, The Ideal Commonwealth.* By James W. Bucklin. Published by the Author, Grand Junction, Colo., 1914.

*Negro Rural School Fund, Anna T. Jeanes Foundation.* Report of the President, James H. Dillard, at the Annual Meeting, January 24, 1914. Address 17 Battery Place, New York City.

*Jew and Also Christian: A Memorial Address on Joseph Fels, the Christian.* By Herbert S. Bigelow. Delivered at the People's Church, Grand Opera House, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 8, 1914.

*Our National Problem: The Sad Condition of the Oklahoma Indians.* By Warren K. Moorehead of the United States Board of Indian Commissioners. Copies may be obtained free from the author, Andover, Mass.



"You are no gentleman," she wrote, "if you think I said such a thing as she said you said I said I had said."

"Dear girl," he answered, "you must not think I think you think you must be the kind of girl I think you must be if you said such a thing as you said she said I said you said you had said."

It seems he knew she knew he knew she said

just what she said she heard he had heard her friend had heard him say he had heard her say, but with intuitive feminine tact she accepted his apology.—Life.



Hope springs eternal in the chicken business. And yet there's money in it, unquestionably big money. It is demonstrable by syllogism, thus: Money has been put into the chicken business; It hasn't been taken out of it; So it must be there. Q. E. D.—Eugene Wood in The Masses.



To a diplomat who complimented him upon his sangfroid, President Wilson replied, with his dry smile, that he tried to imitate the gravedigger. Of course, this meant a story, and the President told it. A certain grave-digger, he explained, had the habit of visiting the cemetery every night about midnight to see that all was going well. Knowing of this habit, some boys decided to play a trick upon him. They

dug a trench in a dark spot which their prospective victim always crossed, and one of them, dressed in a sheet, hid behind a tree. At midnight the grave-digger duly appeared, and as duly fell into the trench.

The boy in the sheet at once stepped forth and said in hollow tones:

"What are you doing in my grave?"

"What are you doing out of it?" the grave-digger replied calmly.—The (San Francisco) Star.



Miss Varney was trying to illustrate to her youthful Sunday-school class the lesson, "Return good for evil." To make it practical she said:

"Now suppose, children, one of your schoolmates should strike you, and the next day you should bring him an apple, that would be one way of returning good for evil."

A little girl, sitting in one of the front seats, raised her hand.

"Well, Elizabeth," said the teacher, "what is it?"

"Then," said Elizabeth firmly, "he would strike you again to get another apple."—Ladies' Home Journal.

## WANTED

Pacific Coast Agency for desirable article of household utility by Wholesale Merchandise House in San Francisco. References given. Address: **CO-OPERATIVE, 236 Commercial St., San Francisco.**

## WANTED

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Mrs. Putton-Ayres had picked up a few French phrases which she worked into her talk on every possible occasion. Entering the butcher's shop one day, she inquired if he had any "bon vivant."

"Boned what, ma'am?" asked the butcher, puzzled.

"Bon vivant," she repeated. "That's the French for good liver, you know."—Boston Transcript.



The teacher was entertaining the school commissioners one afternoon.

"This is one of my brightest pupils," she said,

indicating a boy who was seated at one of the desks, intent upon writing. "He is always busy studying while his companions are wasting their time out at play. "Morris," she said to the boy, "let me see what you are writing, please."

"No'm," replied the boy, "I don't want to."

"He is a modest boy," explained the teacher. "Come, Morris, I want to read it."

Morris reluctantly handed her the paper and she read:

"Please excuse Morris from school today, as he is needed at home."—Harper's Magazine.

## THE ROCKEFELLER STATEMENT

"It is the inalienable right of every citizen to work without interference whether he be a union man or a non-union man."

Millions of people read this sentence in the daily papers last week. They paid particular attention to it because it came from John D. Rockefeller Jr. when he was discussing the Colorado Labor War.

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Our circulation department will have this little editorial reprinted on a slip, ordinary-envelope size. Everyone who will distribute a few hundred or thousand copies is urged to write for them immediately. No charge will be made for the slips.

While attention is focused on the Colorado situation this editorial will be read by practically everybody into whose hands it falls. A supply should be left with the secretary of every labor union in the country. Blanket your territory with them.

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