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EDITORIAL

Poor Advice.

The tardiness with which Congress disposes of the long-pending Seamen's Bill recalls a pithy sentence in reply to an unnamed marine officer who had criticised the bill. Notwithstanding the years of investigation and the exhaustive inquiry into the shipping question from every possible point of view, this officer had the audacity to suggest another commission of shipping interests. Andrew Furuseth, the hardy and indefatigable sailor who has watched so long and so well over the interests of the seamen, makes this comment: "Congress has listened to and accepted the advice of the shipping interests, so-called, for one hundred years. The result is that we have neither vessels nor seamen." Is there no means by which Congress can be got to act? Must the appointment of committees and the taking of testimony continue forever?

S. C.



Disorder in Mexico and Europe.

If, as was reported, the government of Spain has asked European nations to jointly demand establishment of peace in Mexico, its appeal should prove embarrassing to the nations addressed. They are themselves fighting, for reasons not nearly as capable of justification on grounds of humanity, civilization or intelligence as those underlying the Mexican struggle, and their fight has already caused more trouble, annoyance and loss to neutral nations than the Mexican trouble can cause if continued for a hundred years. One can avoid trouble on account of the Mexican difficulty by keeping out of the country. But the European brawl is dangerous to innocent non-combatants peacefully pursuing their way on the high seas. Those engaged in it cannot, without confession of greater guilt and folly on their own part, protest about Mexico. And Spain cannot ask them to join in a protest, without making statements which, by inference, must condemn their conduct.

S. D.

Protectionists Declare Protection Injurious.

The establishment by Germany of a war zone in English waters promises to put an end, for the duration of the war, to the measure of free trade which England has enjoyed. And not even the protectionist Tories are consistent enough to be rejoiced at the prospect and to wish the Germans success. German protectionists have been equally inconsistent. They have not applauded England's efforts to prevent importation of cotton and other commodities into Germany, and the protectionist ministry of the Empire is taking the position that depriving its enemies of the privilege of free trade is a good way to weaken them. Since this policy interferes with American trade, why would it not be a good idea to send Republican floor leader James R. Mann, or some equally good protectionist, as special ambassador to Germany to show the Kaiser how he can ruin England by ensuring her uninterrupted free trade?

S. D.



Free Trade and Peace.

The best peace maintainer will be absolute free trade. Not that peace cannot otherwise be maintained, for it can. But without free trade, to maintain peace will often require laborious effort involving danger of failure. Under free trade it will require no more effort to maintain peace between nations than is needed to maintain peace between New York and New Jersey.

S. D.



Machinations of Privilege.

In Europe cunning Privilege has urged on the people to a fratricidal war that will be as disastrous to the victors as to the vanquished. In the victorious nations producers of wealth will be robbed as before by non-producers of all they produce above a bare living. They will be no better off in this respect than the people of the defeated nations. In the United States the tools of Privilege are endeavoring to perpetuate the same conditions, by urging American citizens to make their sympathy with either set of combatants, a political issue, and thus give predatory monopoly a new and undisturbed lease of power.

S. D.



Sacrifices for the Poor, Gains for the Rich.

The Canadian government is not content with letting the workers do the fighting in this war. It insists that they must bear all the expense as well. That is the meaning of Finance Minister W. T. White's announcement of an increase in

tariff duties to provide \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000 additional revenue. Only recently the Grain Growers' Convention at Winnipeg, by a vote of 499 to 1, demanded that a land value tax be levied to provide revenue and that tariff duties be abolished. So Minister White is estopped from pretending that he wants to help the farmers, as Tories on this side of the line would have been quick to urge. He may find some other excuse, equally thin, but if he were to frankly state that he has been influenced by a desire to serve predatory interests he would be more worthy of respect as well as belief.



It may be urged in behalf of Minister White, as has been urged in Lloyd George's behalf, that the land owning interest objects so strongly to war taxes that should an attempt be made to compel it to bear them, it will resist and cripple the government in its conduct of war. That is another way of saying that the interest which gets the most benefit from government does not share in that feeling, called patriotism, which induces the poor and humble to sacrifice themselves. It looks like another case of a poor man's fight and a rich man's war. When will the poor learn this oft-repeated lesson?

S. D.



Saving Labor.

The publication of an advertisement of a new motor that is designed to furnish power at such a low rate that it will dispense with a large number of laborers is used by a profoundly earnest writer to show the cause of unemployment. The writer goes on to enumerate a number of inventions and discoveries that are designed to perform a given service much cheaper than it was formerly done by labor. The Diesel motor, which uses crude oil, the water power that drives the machinery of far-distant cities, and the various processes that enable one man to do the work formerly done by two, are pilloried as the oppressors of labor. But are they? Are these labor-saving devices friends or enemies of the laboring man?



The only commercial reason for adopting a new process or instrument lies in the fact that by so doing the process is cheapened. If the machine plus the labor employed in its operation is not cheaper than the labor formerly employed, it will not be adopted. If it is cheaper, its general adoption will cause a lowering in the price of the goods. All labor products are either finished goods

ready for consumption, or are raw materials to be used in further manufacture. In either case they are of direct value to consumers. And since the cheapening of the price to the consumer increases consumption, the tendency is to increase, rather than to decrease, the demand for labor. There is, it is true, a temporary confusion during the introduction of the new labor-saving device; but the labor so displaced is quickly absorbed in the new industries that are made possible by this cheapened process.



The invention of a perfect substitute for leather would possibly throw some tanners out of work; but all the industries using leather as a raw material would increase their output, and would make a corresponding demand for labor. Bessemer steel required but a small part of the labor necessary to make charcoal steel in the old way; but when the new metal was reduced to one-tenth the price of the old, it became the basis of many new industries, and transformed old ones. Whitney's cotton gin, which enabled one man to do the work of fifty in removing the lint from the seed, made cotton growing one of the great industries of the country, and supplied the people of the world with cheap and comfortable clothing.



This is true of all labor-saving processes. No machine can or will run a machine; no process can manipulate a process. Labor is as necessary now as it was in the beginning; and it will be indispensable at the end. Operations, methods, and processes may change, but the one unvarying and indispensable element throughout is labor. The trouble does not lie in the labor-saving processes, but in another indispensable element, land. Every time any product is cheapened in price there is a tendency to start a new industry, with the employment of more labor; for man is the creature of unsatisfied desire. But a new industry cannot be established without using more land; and since no process, discovery, or invention has yet been devised to make land, the increased demand sends up the price. Hence, as science reduces the price of goods it correspondingly advances the price of land. This steadily advancing price of land not only weighs down industry to the limit of endurance; but it not infrequently overwhelms it entirely. So long as advancing land prices are within the compass of increasing productive power, industry continues, and labor is employed; but speculative values soon outrun even swift-moving science, and finally bring industry to a stand, with labor unemployed.

Is it not evident that unemployment is due, not to labor-aiding science and invention, but to labor-burdening land monopoly? Why, then, attempt the impracticable process of putting all industry in the hands of incompetent government, when the desired end can be attained by destroying land monopoly in a way that will actually simplify the present system of government? s. c.



Regulating Prices.

A warning note against governmental interference with prices is sounded by Progress, of Melbourne. There has been the same clamor in Australia as in this country for an embargo on wheat, and for other legislation to stop advancing prices. One of the witnesses before the parliamentary commission advocated that the price be fixed at four shillings a bushel. Later on this same man was compelled to place his affairs before a meeting of his creditors, and it was revealed that he had sold 675,000 bushels of wheat that he did not hold, at three shillings ninepence to four shillings per bushel. Had the government listened to his advice, he would have been the richer by \$300,000.



The writer of this able article in Progress shows how futile have been all attempts to fix prices, and how mischievous are governmental interferences with private businesses. Wheat at five shillings a bushel, the author says, will be used for human food; at two shillings and sixpence a bushel it will be used partly for human food, and also for chickens, horses, cattle, and swine. At the higher price the supply will last until the next harvest; at the lower price it will soon become exhausted. The advanced price, therefore, acts as a perfect regulator to gauge the consumption of wheat to the supply in hand. Again, if the price be forced below what the market now demands, it will deter farmers from planting the maximum next year. If they be allowed the advanced price now the extra abundant crop that follows will equalize prices. Those highly sensitive persons who have been throwing political fits because bread has advanced from five to six cents a loaf, typify the yokel who would economize at the spigot while wasting at the bung. Any persons who at this age of the world are burdened by an advance of one cent a loaf on bread need an examination into the source of their income. Before the state should be asked to save the laboring man one cent, it should explain how a laborer's income came to be so small that the loss of that cent causes serious inconvenience. s. c.

Incipient Presidential Booms.

It is one of the misfortunes of men who by their merit capture the public imagination that politicians eager to rehabilitate themselves seize upon them as standard bearers in campaigns for which they are not at all fitted. Colonel Goethals, Colonel Gaillard, and Colonel Gorgas rendered themselves conspicuous for merit on a commission distinguished for a high degree of excellence. When the military government, headed by Colonel Goethals, was replaced by a civil government, the question arose as to whether a Democratic President could rise to the point of appointing a Republican of exceptional merit to a high place. President Wilson did appoint Colonel Goethals as Civil Governor of the Canal Zone. Later, a Democratic Mayor of New York invited Colonel Goethals to become police commissioner of that city. Now the rumor is current that all this has been done to prevent the distinguished engineer from becoming the Republican presidential candidate in 1916.



Colonel Goethals has from all accounts proven himself to be a remarkably efficient engineer. He may or may not be a fit man for the presidency. It does not necessarily follow, however, that a man who can calculate with great nicety the cost and manner of constructing a canal has a true vision of the political and economic ideals that should inspire this country. Or that an officer who could handle several thousand workingmen, under an absolute military regime, could necessarily control and work with that number of politicians in Washington. It is the right of any native-born citizen of the male sex to aspire to the office of the presidency—and that office is not beneath the dignity of the greatest—but it may be questioned if a man who has served his country as well as Colonel Goethals has is required to place himself in the hands of the leaders of such a political organization as the Republican party. If merit is ever to receive any reward beyond that of blind chance, it would seem that the next four years of the presidency is in the keeping of the present incumbent.

S. O.



No Evasion of Nature's Penalties.

There would be no problem of unemployment in the United States today had the government kept true to the principle that all men have equal and inalienable rights to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. We can not escape the consequences of our infidelity to this principle by more infidel-

ity. We allow a few privileged ones to appropriate what has been communally produced. We only make matters worse when we try to remedy it through public appropriation of what individuals produce. We create poverty, ignorance and crime through allowing a few to monopolize natural resources. Then we clamor for exclusion of the poor, ignorant and criminal of other countries. Such methods are vain. We must cease to violate the natural rights of men or must suffer the consequences.

S. D.



Michigan's Competent Wage Commission.

A refreshing exception to the kind of reports usually made by official investigators of industrial conditions is that of the Minimum Wage Commission of Michigan. In its report on labor conditions it does not differ much, if at all, from the ordinary report of that kind. But in presentation of remedies it goes deeper into the matter than such commissions, as a rule, have seen fit to go. After discussing the usual superficial suggestions it shows that reform must not stop with such palliatives. It calls attention to the fact that wages are what labor produces, but that existing laws prevent labor from getting its product. It puts the blame on laws that lay taxes on labor and its product, and help monopolization of natural resources. It shows that but for such laws labor would be able to help itself, and superficial palliatives would not be needed. With that report before them the Michigan legislators will have no excuse for neglect to deal with social problems in a fundamental manner.

S. D.



Condemning Enforcement of a Bad Law.

In condemning the indictment of Julius Rosenwald for alleged violation of the iniquitous tax laws of Illinois, the Chicago Singletax Club may have shocked those who cling to the notion that strict enforcement of an unjust law is the way to bring about its repeal. But the club has good cause to hold that notion to be a fallacy. If any examples can be cited at all of repeal of bad laws secured by that method, they are certainly not numerous enough to be encouraging. The doctrine is more rational that laws were made for men and not men for laws. A law which does nothing but evil should be repealed, but if those who have power to repeal it refuse to do so, it does not follow that other methods should be neglected to put an end to the wrong.

S. D.

A Newspaper Experiment.

James Schermerhorn, publisher of the Detroit Times, has gotten his name into other papers than his own, through an effort to conduct the Times in harmony with the spirit of the Beatitudes. He started the paper fifteen years ago in answer to a challenge of a Detroit man who declared that no newspaper could be "run on Sunday school lines." Mr. Schermerhorn's purpose and ambition was to make the new paper square with the Sermon on the Mount, and at the same time to bring it to a paying basis within twenty years. It has been a long, hard fight, but the editor announces success. As one of the incidents marking his difficulties, the refusal to accept objectionable medical advertisements, caused the paper that year to lose \$14,000. This loss was gradually made good by an increase of subscriptions, which put the paper again on a paying basis. When he dropped liquor and cigarette advertising, piano puzzles, and wildcat mining schemes, the paper was again a losing enterprise. But it has gradually crept up until the balance is now on the right side of the ledger. The editor says that possibly he will require the whole twenty years to prove that a newspaper can be both ethical and animate. "If the kingdom of heaven is within us," he says, "why not within the pages of the daily press; where is everything else, so may it be. The blessing promised in the Sermon on the Mount is a blessing held up to the poor in spirit, and the persecuted. If our idea spreads it will bring a day when the American press shall be as unsullied as it is free, a press without spot or blemish or wrinkle or any such thing."



Mr. Schermerhorn is to be congratulated upon the success of his novel undertaking. His example will tend to encourage others in a greater effort toward better journalism. Each demonstration of this kind will help to convince editors of other papers that sensational news columns and dishonest advertisements are not the sole means of success. But the question may be asked, Has Mr. Schermerhorn completed his experiment? To bar from his news columns lewdness, vulgarity, and licentiousness, and from his advertising pages quack medicines, liquor, cigarettes, and all manner of dishonest advertisements, is most commendable; for it brings us nearer to the spirit of the Beatitudes—but not quite to them. These virtues are in a sense negative; and it is not sufficient that a man should merely refrain from doing evil. He cannot reach the full stature of a man until he does good. The man who speaks chastely,

lives temperately, and refrains from doing those things that were condemned by the great Master, and yet who should see a bandit prey upon a helpless neighbor, or who should see a cunning and unscrupulous man wrong his fellows, and do nothing to aid the victims, would still lack something of the spirit of the Beatitudes.



Mr. Schermerhorn solved the difficulty in the way of his business fellows when he refused objectionable medical advertisements, and still more when he threw out liquor and cigarette advertising; let him now try one more experiment. Let him consider the greatest commercial value in the country, a value that is produced by the activities of society as a whole, but which is monopolized and appropriated by a part of the people, to the inexpressible hardship of the remainder, and ask himself what the Master would have advised under such a circumstance. Let him take a stand for the enactment of a law that will establish the right of every man to that which he creates, acting as an individual, and also to that which he creates, acting as one of the community. In other words, let him join in the effort to secure a law that will take for the use of society, as a whole, the land values that are created by society as a whole, and that will remove all taxes from the products of labor, so that the individual creator of wealth will have the full enjoyment of all that he creates. The inauguration of such a policy by Mr. Schermerhorn may cause some of his subscribers to leave him, and others to withhold legitimate advertisements; but if he wishes to put himself in complete accord with the great Master's teachings, he can do no less. And if he does do this, there is the same hope that it will succeed that there was from his past experiments. s. c.



What Is Americanism?

The American Journal of Sociology for January prints a symposium in response to this question:

With a view to the interests not primarily of individuals or of classes; considering not merely the next decade nor the next generation nor the next century, but having in mind our relationships both to one another and to our successors for many centuries; upon what ideals, policies, programs, or specific purposes should Americans place most stress in the immediate future?

This was submitted to 250 representative men and women of the country, barring only holders of political offices. Responses were received from 44, of whom 18 offered apologies, 19 gave various

answers, and 7 were Singletaxers. The editor of the *Journal of Sociology*, Professor Albion W. Small, says in a concluding summary that the replies evidence certain types of opinion to an extent far out of proportion to their actual influence in the United States; for he does not believe that even Singletaxers would claim that their proportion of replies would indicate a corresponding proportion of the public sentiment of the country. The preponderance of George men in the symposium is due most likely to the fact that persons addressed, holding to that philosophy, had the spirit to reply.



But it is not alone in preponderance of number that the George men are conspicuous. The depth of their penetration into the problems of life, the breadth of their grasp, and the clearness of their understanding, is in striking contrast to the platitudes and generalities indulged in by the other contributors. It was not a "cure-all" that these clear-visioned men presented, not a one-idea; but a practical, working philosophy, based upon human nature as it is, and leading it along a logical course in compliance with long-proven causes and effects. Not only does the symposium show the "miscellaneousness of American minds," as noticed by Professor Small; but it would seem to indicate the source of the educational force that is to harmonize and co-ordinate this "miscellaneousness" into what we may term "Americanism."

S. C.



FREEDOM MENACED BY BUREAUCRACY.

In *The Public* of January 29 appears an editorial discussing a proposed bill intended to bestow upon the Postmaster General the powers of a press censor. I heartily agree with the conclusion that "there is already far too much despotism and censorship in the Post Office Department. Certainly no more is desirable." But I would go further and assert that there is already far too much despotism in all the Federal Departments and Bureaus and no more is desirable.

For several years I have been fighting the tendency to confer more power on the bureaus of the government, but only in recent months have I found much response from public men. Few observe the great danger into which we are drifting. Press censorship is a form of bureaucracy that comes home to the publisher, but he has not so much occasion to note the despotism existing in other fields of enterprise. Liberty of the press is essential to popular government, yet it is no

more important to the individual than the protection of his property when that property is his means of obtaining a living.

Let me illustrate: A few days ago there came to me for advice and assistance two men who have invested practically all their money, \$40,000 in material, labor and machinery for a salmon cannery on an Alaskan river. They discussed their plans with an officer of the Bureau of Fisheries and secured from the Forestry Service written permission to erect the cannery. Now they are informed that the Bureau of Fisheries will close the stream against fishing, notwithstanding the fact that there is now no operating cannery on the stream, practically no fishing on the stream, fish by the million running in and out and by no possible means could the fish be prevented from going up to the spawning grounds. Yet a bureaucrat in Washington, who perhaps never saw a live salmon until he was appointed to office, proposes to prohibit fishing at a time when meat is so high and money so scarce that people find it hard to supply themselves with food.

It is not my purpose to discuss the merits of this particular case but to emphasize the assertion that bureaucracy is as grave an evil in other departments as in the Postal Service. Apparently the press of the country is having enough to do in defending its own rights against the encroachments of the bureaus without taking up the fight of men in all walks of life whose personal and property rights are threatened by the bureaucratic greed for power.

Let me point the remedy for the present tendency by quoting a paragraph from an article of mine published in *Collier's* of December 26, 1914, under the title "Menace of Bureaucracy":

First, in order to establish a government by law and not by individual whim, all statutes placing limitations upon the rights of the people must be drawn in such specific and comprehensive language as to make definite and certain the rights, duties and liabilities of every citizen, leaving nothing whatever to the discretion of those who happen temporarily to exercise executive power. Second, the appointing power which now makes the President a practical dictator over Congress must be abolished. Federal officers in the different States, such as postmasters, collectors of customs and collectors of internal revenues, appraisers, marshals, district attorneys and land officers, should all be elected by the people in their various districts.

Strengthened and encouraged by the power they already have, the bureaus can be curbed only by vigorous protest from the people and the press of the country against any laws conferring discretionary power.

JONATHAN BOURNE, JR.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

FAITH VERSUS DEEDS.

If I take the Lord as my shepherd I shall not want. He will make me to lie down in green pastures; he will lead me beside the still waters.

So spoke Mr. R. A. Long, multi-millionaire lumberman, extensive land monopolist and large owner of franchise privileges, before a crowd of fifteen hundred "down and outers" at the Helping Hand Institute in Kansas City on December 25.

Mr. Long's inspiring speech, if we take the Kansas City Star's word for it, apparently had a very profound effect upon his motley audience, bringing tears at one time, cheers at another—especially when he announced that work was soon to be resumed on several large buildings undergoing construction on his 1,600-acre farm near Lee's Summit.

Whatever views his hearers may have had, however, it is certain that, regardless of whether Mr. Long takes the Lord as his Shepherd, or whether he doesn't, he need "not want." The fact is, that so far as he is personally concerned, the less he takes the Lord as his shepherd, the less he shall want. Yes, that's exactly what we mean—the LESS he shall want.

This assertion, no doubt, will, to many seem very blasphemous. But it's true. Not only is Mr. Long an extensive owner of valuable land in and around the vicinity of Kansas City, but he is also a large sharer in the franchise grants of that city. As the city grows, of course, these lands and privileges enhance in value regardless of anything that Mr. Long may do.

Then again he is an immense holder of southern timber lands, which, without any effort or native ability on his part brings to him material blessings in such abundance that today his cup fairly "runneth over."

For one thing, he is the owner of more than 200,000 acres of the best yellow pine land in southwest Louisiana. This land, which less than a generation ago, was worth only \$1.25 an acre, is now worth anywhere from \$15 to \$100 an acre—according to whether the timber has been taken off or is still standing. And as with his large possessions elsewhere, the value of these lands has been created, not by himself any more than by any one else, but by the general increase in population and growth of the country as a whole.

We ought not, however, to bear any ill will toward the wealthy lumberman for this. If he is "reaping where he has never sown," it is through no fault of his. The blame rests solely upon society—the State—in not taking for its own use, in lieu of taxes upon improvements and personal property, that natural fund which is of its own creation, and to which therefore it is in all justice and morality rightly entitled.

But if Mr. Long takes the Lord as his shepherd, as he professes to do, he should not hesitate to support—should not oppose at any rate—any attempt on the part of individuals in society, to correct this great social blunder. Yet this is precisely what he

does do. He looks with positive disfavor upon the proposition to abolish all taxation upon labor and industry, and place the burden upon land in proportion to its value.

Considering the great social benefits that would result from such a fiscal reform—the enormous advantages that would accrue to both producers and consumers alike, and the large opportunities that would be opened to the multitude of workless workers everywhere, in gaining access to the fertile cut-over lands in Louisiana and other states—considering all this, it is difficult to understand why Mr. Long, who claims to have at heart the welfare of the man or woman who is down and out, takes such a view. Can it be that his opposition to the Single-tax springs from the fact that it would deprive him of further "unearned increment"?

We are loath to believe it, yet we cannot eradicate the suspicion that the great lumberman and philanthropist takes the Lord as his shepherd only so long as it doesn't interfere with his income.

EMIL O. JORGENSEN.



A WAR THAT'S JUSTIFIED.

Paterson, N. J., December 30.

From times immemorial humanity was involved in wars. There was on one side a clan which fought for its existence, on the other an aggressive tribe that sought to expand itself on the acquisitions of the former. To fight nature to yield more, to fight nature to give him more for less effort seemed strange to the primitive man, and he rather exerted himself to fight man—to fight his own kind.

Those wars were not justified. The modern jingoist historian who is justifying those wars on the ground of economic necessity is in need, more than any other living being, of a justification for his crookedness. There was no economic necessity; there was plenty to be obtained, if man only wanted to work, but he did not. The war gave him a chance to do away with work. Through wars he obtained ransoms, and the people he conquered became his slaves. For this reason, if not for any other, it could not be justified.

The modern war, the wars of today, cannot be justified. Their cause is greed, selfishness their motto. Their actions inhuman, their pretense hypocrisy. They bring destruction, suffering, tears of mothers, tears of sisters, tears of fathers and tears of sweethearts. They have wrought poverty, distress and regret to nations that undertook them. None of these can be justified. If patriotism is put up in their defense, it must go with them, and go quickly!

There is one war which is justified, because social justice is its motto. It is the war waged by the working class against all forces of misery and oppression. I can see its final victory through my mind's eye and picture the freedom, industrial justice and liberty it will bring to humanity. Rejoicing in it I see little children and frail mothers from the workshops; prostitutes from the streets, prostitutes from the press and public platforms, who were forced to sell themselves through the agency of industrial oppressions. I can see them all in a circle rejoicing, laughing, smiling, praising the noble work accomplished by the Industrial Army, which are ac-

companied by whispers of regret: "Why didn't we help—it would surely have come sooner."

This is a war—a war that's justified!

SAMUEL PET.



HUMAN RIGHTS VERSUS "NATIONAL RIGHTS."

Final Judgment By the Court.

I am going to quote some!—and sing about it, and dance round it; it is so new and funny. As Bert Williams says: "Now, I'm going to dance some. This is my glide!"

My funny Mascot—my Joke—is George Horace Lorimer. I've got more letters in my name than he has—that gives me courage! Just look at my signature, at the bottom of this article! Can you beat it? Something in a "big name"—hey?

Well! Let's go to it. George Horace Lorimer, editor of the Saturday Evening Post, said, editorially, in the "Post" of Saturday, February 13, 1915: "Employees talk about 'the right to work,' as though it was something as indubitable as the treasury's obligation to redeem a greenback" (Lorimer is a gold-bug) and, continuing, he says: "There are no natural rights!"

"Nobody," says Lorimer, "whose judgment need be considered, doubts the statement (made by George Horace Lorimer in another skit, on the same page, declaring Mark Hanna all right and W. J. Bryan all wrong). Ergo—upon the final judgment of Lorimer "there are no natural rights!"

The natural law of gravitation, of crystallization, of attraction and repulsion, assimilation and disintegration; the persistent natural law of order and of orderly sequence, that regulates the seasons, revolves the earth on its axis, swings the planets round the sun and that swings the myriad suns gathered in nebulae around some mysterious undiscovered center of a circle beyond our power of comprehension—these are all wrongs! Nature has no rights. "There are no natural rights."

Rights are not rights at all, until they have the sanction and consent of George Horace Lorimer; upon his judgment and the judgment of those he need consider. Then, of course, and perforce, they became human force-rights. Not, nor ever, natural rights. In support of this ripe judgment, Lorimer appeals to history and says: "In fact, there is no record in all history of rights for any man that his fellows did not permit." (Some of his fellows), and of course and perforce, no rights for anybody but the strongest brute.

Since man climbed down from the trees to live in caves, armed himself with a club, threw terror into his fellow males, and chased and choked the females of his species into humble submission, has anyone more logically than George Horace Lorimer proven the truth and beauty of the law of human (?) force?

Good! That tickles me all over; I'll get me a club, hunt up George Horace Lorimer, and "soak" him good and plenty. That's my man-made, unnatural right! There are no natural rights.

As Editor Lorimer seems to have a hatred for natural rights and a "hunch" against nature in general, we will, out of respect for his feelings, substi-

tute for the word nature, the name of God. Mr. Baer likes that name, and Baer has divined, and defined for us, God's intention, in creating the universe—and coal—to make Mr. Baer his attorney and coal disbursing, with full power. Now that we have Baer and Lorimer and the innocent third party—God—in unnatural co-operation, we can proceed with our discussion of this new discovery upon easy lines.

God created the earth and the dust of it—and man out of the dust. (In some cases I judge the dust was swept up from the street in the vicinity of a stable. But we must not discuss disparaging trifles, in our discussion of George Horace Lorimer and his ripe and serious discoveries and judgments.) God created the earth, and man, and made man's existence dependent upon his use of the earth by his labor on it. But man has no natural—pardon me—God-given right to work, and produce his "board and keep." God has made a terrible mistake; and the other two members of the firm of We and God, don't propose to stand for it—to stand for this fluke, in commanding man to live "in the sweat of his brow." There is no right to work. There are no natural—beg pardon again—God-given rights at all, or if there was, we have annulled the laws which created them—We and God.

The Declaration of Independence is another fake performance; man has no unalienable rights to life and liberty, etc., etc. The final judgment by George Horace Lorimer and a few others whose judgments we need consider, have decided by their judicial interpretations of the law and the facts, that the old-time "Declaration" was just a case of "froth at the mouth." And as to that old Bible declaration of God's "The earth have I given unto all the children of men, for a possession," and that command, "If a man will not work neither shall he eat"—the first is a pious humbug and the last is a joke. Final judgment by George Baer, George Horace Lorimer and ——— (?) sitting in the Supreme Court of Last Appeal.

The clerk will enter the court's decision and judgment upon the minutes!

EBENEZER STILLMAN DOUBLEDAY.

NEWS NARRATIVE

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

Week ending Tuesday, February 16, 1915.

Mexico.

The restiveness among the foreign representatives in Mexico City culminated on the 11th when General Carranza served the Spanish Minister to Mexico, Jose Caro, with notice to leave the country within twenty-four hours. Minister Caro's offense is reported to be his giving shelter to a Spaniard accused of aiding General Villa. The minister is now a guest on the American battleship Delaware. Much disquiet is reported in Mexico City, where growing scarcity of food, and the threatening

forces of General Zapata have cut off the water supply. [See current volume, page 160.]



The Villa forces are reported to have taken Guadalajara, the second largest city, on the 13th. General Villa, at Iraquato, Guanajuato, declared in an interview:

I will never agree to the election of Carranza as president, because it would be impossible for him to be named in a free and legal election. His election would be accomplished only through fraud, and consequently we would object to it by arms. The duties and circumstances that obliged me to take the responsibility for the presidency temporarily will no longer be binding on me as soon as we are in communication with the Convention. I will not hold any political office even if the Convention thinks it proper and so requests me.



China.

Negotiations between Japan and China have been under way since the fall of Kiao-chau, looking to certain privileges sought by the Japanese government; but as the demands were not made public the exact situation is not known to the outside world. It was announced on the 15th that China had rejected Japan's demands. These demands are reported to be: No section of China's coast, or islands off the coast, shall be ceded or leased to another power. China must employ Japanese in high official positions in the army, and in the police and financial departments. China may call upon Japan alone for the preservation of its integrity. No foreigners, except Japanese, may be employed in the arsenals. At least half the arms and ammunition hereafter must be purchased from Japan. Japan will establish an arsenal in China. China must grant to Japan the same privileges as other nations for the establishment of schools, churches, hospitals, and missions, and for the purchase of lands for them. The Japanese ask joint control with China of the Hanyang iron works, the Tayeh mines and the Ping-Hsiang collieries; and demand certain railroad concessions. [See vol. xvii, p. 1021.]



These demands have been refused by China. Japan claims that the demands do not violate the Hay principles of the integrity of China and the open door. China claims they do. The Japanese government assures the American government that the demands are commercial and not political, and offer no ground for objection from the American government. It is reported that President Yuan Shih-Kai was obliged to deny the demands of the Japanese in order to prevent a rebellion of the southern provinces.

It is announced that the Chinese government has pardoned Dr. Sun Yat Sen, and other rebel leaders, and offered them high official positions if they will return and declare their loyalty to the government. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the "father of the republic," is supposed to be in hiding in Japan. [See vol. xvi, p. 973.]



The European War.

Once more the Russian invasion of East Prussia has failed, and the Russian forces are falling back upon their former fortifications on the Niemen River. No changes are reported from the Warsaw front. In Bukowina, and along the Carpathians severe fighting is reported; but accounts are still too conflicting to admit of intelligent interpretation. Practically no changes have occurred in the line in France and Belgium; and nothing of moment is reported from Turkey or Egypt. [See current volume, page 160.]



Interest in diplomatic discussions of the British and German sea rules overshadows at present the land campaign. The United States on the 11th protested to Germany against the enforcement of its proclamation of the 6th, in which it was announced that after February 18, she would destroy merchantmen entering English waters. On the same date a note of protest was sent to the British government, protesting against the use of the American flag by British ships.



The American government meets the German warning regarding the destruction of merchant ships of the enemy in the war zone where "it may not always be possible to save crews and passengers," and where, owing to the use of neutral flags by enemy vessels, "it may not be possible always to exempt neutral vessels from attacks intended to strike enemy ships," with the statement:

The government of the United States views those possibilities with such grave concern that it feels it to be its privilege and indeed its duty in the circumstances to request the imperial German government to consider before action is taken the critical situation in respect of the relation between this country and Germany which might arise were the German naval forces in carrying out the policy foreshadowed in the admiralty's proclamation to destroy any merchant vessel of the United States or cause the death of American citizens.

It is, of course, not necessary to remind the German government that the sole right of a belligerent in dealing with neutral vessels on the high seas is limited to visit and search unless a blockade is proclaimed and effectively maintained, which this government does not understand to be proposed in this case.

To declare or exercise a right to attack and destroy any vessel entering a prescribed area of the high

seas without first certainly determining its belligerent nationality and the contraband character of its cargo would be an act so unprecedented in naval warfare that this government is reluctant to believe that the imperial government of Germany in this case contemplates it as possible.

The suspicion that enemy ships are using neutral flags improperly can create no just presumption that all ships traversing a prescribed area are subject to the same suspicion. It is to determine exactly such questions that this government understands the right of visit and search to have been recognized.

If the commanders of German vessels of war should act upon the presumption that the flag of the United States was not being used in good faith and should destroy on the high seas an American vessel or the lives of American citizens it would be difficult for the government of the United States to view the act in any other light than as an indefensible violation of neutral rights which it would be hard indeed, to reconcile with the friendly relations now so happily subsisting between the two governments.

If such a deplorable situation should arise the Imperial German government can readily appreciate that the government of the United States would be constrained to hold the Imperial German government to a strict accountability for such acts of their naval authorities and to take any steps it might be necessary to take to safeguard American lives and property and to secure to American citizens the full enjoyment of their acknowledged rights on the high seas.

The government of the United States, in view of these considerations, which it urges with the greatest respect and with the sincere purpose of making sure that no misunderstanding may arise and no circumstance occur that might even cloud the intercourse of the two governments, expresses the confident hope and expectation that the Imperial German government can and will give assurance that American citizens and their vessels will not be molested by the naval forces of Germany otherwise than by visit and search, though their vessels may be traversing the sea area delimited in the proclamation of the German admiralty.

In a "preliminary" reply the German government charges that the British government is arming its merchant vessels, that these vessels are to be run in groups, and that large rewards are offered for the destruction of German submarines. It also charges that British shipping will use every means to disguise itself as neutral. Thus it will become almost impossible to ascertain the identity of neutral ships. In conclusion the note says:

Under these circumstances the safety of neutral shipping in the war zone around the British Isles is seriously threatened. There is also an increased danger resulting from mines, as these will be laid in the war zone to a great extent. Accordingly, neutral ships are most urgently warned against entering that area, while the course around Scotland will be safe

Germany has been compelled to resort to this kind

of warfare by the murderous ways of British naval warfare, which aims at the destruction of legitimate neutral trade and at starvation of the German people.

The American note to Great Britain protesting against the raising of the American flag on British vessels declares that while such use of a flag "under the stress of immediate pursuit," may be permissible, it does not sanction the general practice of a belligerent's flying a neutral flag "within certain portions of the high seas which are presumed to be frequented with hostile ships." Such a policy, if continued, will afford British shipping no protection; yet it will endanger neutral shipping.

The Netherlands government has filed protests with Germany and Great Britain similar to those of the United States. It is reported that Italy has formally notified the German government that it will not tolerate acts of war against Italian shipping.

Congressional News.

The Senate on February 10, after a long-drawn-out filibustering debate, practically ejected the administration's ship purchase bill by adopting a motion to adjourn by a vote of 48 to 46. Seven Democrats and Senator Poindexter, Progressive, voted with the majority. Senator La Follette voted with the administration. By this vote the bill loses its place on the calendar and can not easily be reached again before adjournment on March 4. The fight on the measure has been transferred to the House. A caucus of House Democrats on February 16 by a vote of 154 to 29 endorsed the measure. In the Senate charges of improper methods both for and against the measure resulted on February 15 in ordering of an investigation by a committee. [See current volume, page 130.]

The House passed on February 15 by 232 to 44, the Palmer bill barring products of child labor from interstate commerce. The bill goes to the Senate.

The House authorized on February 9 an investigation looking toward impeachment of United States District Judge Alsten O. Dayton of West Virginia. Judge Dayton is charged with hostility to labor, with improperly favoring West Virginia coal operators, with showing hatred and bitterness toward miners on trial in his court, and with abusing his power to prevent and discourage miners from performing lawful acts. A congressional subcommittee to take testimony began hearings at Parkersburg on February 12. The first testimony

related to the means by which Judge Jackson, Judge Dayton's predecessor, was forced to resign during President Roosevelt's administration. Witnesses made statements tending to show that Judge Jackson was the victim of a conspiracy to reflect upon his character and resigned under the wrong impression that evidence clearing him would be withheld by his friends.

On February 15 testimony regarding labor matters was heard. The case of Joe Hoblott, a foreign miner unable to speak English, was cited. He was arrested on a charge of contempt and sentenced to six months in jail on the following day. He was denied an attorney and not allowed to have an interpreter. While serving his sentence he became insane. Judge Dayton was said to have remarked while trying the case that the United Mine Workers are a criminal conspiracy.

President Van Bittner of the local mine workers' organization, said that the judge had upbraided him for wearing good clothes at the expense of the miners, and sentenced him to sixty days "as a matter of general principle."



A Scientific Investigator Honored.

The Spingarn medal was awarded on February 13 in New York City by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to Dr. Ernest Everett Just. The medal is to be awarded each year to the man or woman of African descent and American citizenship who shall have made the highest achievement in any field of honorable human endeavor. Dr. Just has been professor and head of the Department of Physiology in Howard University Medical School in Washington. Although but 31 years of age he has already become prominent as a scientist and writer on scientific subjects. He is a regular contributor to scientific periodicals. The committee which made the award consisted of Bishop John Hurst, ex-President Taft, Dr. James H. Dillard, Oswald Garrison Villard and John Hope.



Woman Suffrage in Iowa.

The Iowa State Senate on February 12 passed the resolution to submit a woman suffrage amendment. The resolution was adopted by the last Legislature and must be re-passed by the present one before being submitted. It now goes to the House. [See current volume, page 159.]



Amos Pinchot on the Unemployed Problem.

In an open letter to Mayor Mitchel, Amos Pinchot spoke, in part, as follows on the matter of unemployment:

The Community owes an opportunity to work to every man who is willing and able to work.

This is not a debatable proposition; it is not a

question of charity or policy. It is a matter of sheer fundamental justice. . . . Last February the A. I. C. P. estimated the number of unemployed in Greater New York at 331,000, not counting women. Now there are probably half a million. Five hundred thousand is the estimate of the Director of the City Employment Bureau. This is a terrible situation, and it is not made less terrible by the fact that the city administration and the tax-paying, solid citizens, who are most in evidence, duck the responsibility and refuse to acknowledge that the community owes employment to those who seek it in time of need.

Apparently the city administration regards the unemployment question as if it were an unexpected crisis instead of a chronic condition. In spite of last winter's appalling record of unemployment and suffering and the absolute certainty that this record would be duplicated or exceeded this winter, it is not until December that the administration suddenly discovers the existence of the unemployment problem—then it promptly avoids the issue by turning over the unemployed to a citizens' committee headed by Judge Gary. In other words, the City of New York quietly "passes the buck."

Now, after weeks of needless delay—weeks that have meant untold suffering to hundreds of thousands who are literally destitute and starving—the Gary committee takes up the unemployment question as follows: (1) It divides itself into sub-committees to be organized, with blue-print charts, (2) it announces that it will send out a Christian-spirited circular advising employers not to discharge anybody, (3) it states that it will make an investigation to find out how many unemployed there are, and (4) it finally goes so far as to suggest that, if it can be done without undue extravagance, the city itself might co-operate in finding work for the workless. Altogether the tactics of the city administration and the Gary committee have been a masterpiece of reticent evasion. . . . And now a large and powerful group of taxpayers, scandalized at the prospective expense of working the unemployed on existing city contracts, are using every influence to hold back this work. They are fighting the only possible measure that can be devised to relieve the necessity and suffering of the vast army of unemployed who have been brought to disaster not by their own shortcomings, but by the community's.

But let us be more specific. Why do our respectable taxpayers, our "best people," our "solid citizens," object to the city giving work to the unemployed? . . . From their point of view it is certainly better finance to have the poor keep right on bearing the whole burden. In view of this difference of opinion, it now becomes the privilege of the city administration to say whether it will stand with the poor or the real estate interests. That is the long and short of it. . . . Certainly the administration has been most fortunate in finding men of experience and ability to head the committees of unemployment and food supply. Yet there is a certain danger that the average citizen will interpret these selections as having been made on the theory upon which General Diaz chose distinguished bandits to lead the police force of Mexico City. Though Mr. Gary and Mr. Perkins have succeeded so well in limiting production and the opportunity of labor in the United

States, and in keeping up the cost of living, it seems doubtful whether the public will conclude that they will be equally successful when called upon to increase opportunities of labor and reduce the cost of living.

If anything real is to be done by the city to help the unemployed, it must be done now. It is unbelievable that the administration should consent to postponing action until the winter is gone and the unemployed are driven out upon the road. The Brooklyn Committee on Unemployment has pointed out the immediate possibility of caring for skilled labor by the immediate establishment of municipal plants in vacant buildings. The Citizen's Union has pointed out that almost every city department has necessary improvements pending, for which plans and specifications have been prepared and approved, and that all that is now needed is authorization to proceed. Necessary roads, parks, hospitals, public buildings of various kinds and alterations for existing plants are now held up. . . . All that is needed to meet the situation is the will to meet it, and certainly the magnitude of the emergency should be sufficient to provide this will.

But in undertaking the relief of the unemployed, it should be borne in mind that their necessity should not be used as a whip to force them to work for unfair wages. The unemployed have already been sufficiently wronged by society's failure to offer them a chance to work in a country where the natural opportunities for work are boundless. They should not be further imposed upon and humiliated by being treated as criminals and forced to work for starvation wages.

Unemployment is an economic condition for which the whole community is responsible. It is chiefly because society has permitted the monopolization of the raw materials, which must be accessible to labor in order to create employment, that unemployment exists. No lesser authorities than James J. Hill and Charles Schwab have pointed out that the opportunity for new enterprise in the steel business and the larger employment of labor which would result, has been cut off by the control over iron ore by a great trust that, as Mr. Gary himself has admitted, holds the ultimate ore monopoly.

The same condition exists in the coal business. Last year the Legislative Assembly of New Jersey reported that 87 per cent of all the anthracite coal of the United States is owned or controlled by a combination of eleven railroads, in which the Philadelphia & Reading alone controls 63 per cent of all the unmined coal. Eighty-nine per cent of the coal mined in 1910-11-12 was produced by this coal trust. Again, the same condition extends to the lumber business, the beef packing business, the harvester machinery business, the soft coal business and, in fact, to almost everyone of our great industries which employ labor on a large scale and produce the common necessities of consumption. The land itself, in the districts where it is most valuable for farming, has passed largely into the hands of a few great owners, and farming is rapidly becoming a business in which the tenant farmer is the rule.

New York City and, for that matter, the United States, will be swept annually by a greater and

greater flood of unemployment, as long as the natural resources which are the basis of employment are controlled by monopolies, whose interest it is to have at least two men apply for every available job.

What we need in order to face the unemployment situation is a franker and more thoughtful consideration of the relation between unemployment and private monopoly. As long as we continue to allow a monopolist group to possess the power to prevent independent industry and thus limit the demand for labor, we will continue to have worse and worse conditions.

If, on the other hand, we make it clear to the community that the government must own and control (1) the natural resources which are the bases of industry and the sources of energy, and (2) our transportation systems, we will have taken the first great step toward meeting the unemployment question with a sound, constructive and practical program, which has already been thoroughly tested and approved in Europe.



Work for the Unemployed.

The following letter in response to appeals for the unemployed of Cleveland was sent to the Mayor's Committee on Non-Employment by A. B. du Pont:

Having noticed in the newspapers that the Committee on Non-employment requests that contributors to the fund for the unemployed designate the purpose for which their contribution be used; and believing as I do, that the cause of non-employment is the impropration of land rent, rightly the property of society, by owners of land, I enclose my check for \$50 and designate that it be used to employ men or women who are now unemployed, to obtain subscriptions to the "Ground Hog," a Journal [published 616 Caxton Bldg., Cleveland] advocating the collection and use of land rents by society.



Investigation of Michigan's Women Workers.

The Michigan Minimum Wage Commission, of which Judson Grenell is chairman, reported on January 27 that 21 per cent of the wage earning women of the State get less than \$6 a week. Fifty-one per cent get less than \$8 a week. "This constitutes a menace to the welfare of society." The commission recommends a minimum wage law and a minimum wage commission, but adds:

The produce of labor constitutes the natural recompense or wages of labor. But when artificial barriers interfere wages always become less than the entire produce of labor. Put employer and employee on an equality in bargaining, and then wages will not represent less than the value of the services performed. Unjust taxation causes economic maladjustment and the consequent necessity for employers to cut wages. And such taxation forces labor to take what is offered. Employers oftentimes "oppress labor" because themselves are oppressed. Much of this economic maladjustment and distress among both employers and employees in the judgment of

the commissioners, could be eliminated by making it possible and easy for labor to employ itself, and thereby give to industry and enterprise an opportunity to reap their full fruits. Relieving productive human activities through tax exemptions, and obtaining the needed revenue for the state by the taxation only of the wealth created by the community collectively, would go far to remedy this condition.

If idle acres were free to be tilled by those needing work, there would be little or no industrial distress. The wage limit would then tend to become what the worker could earn working for himself, for he would work for no one for less. When it is made unprofitable to hold land out of use, there will be less demand and certainly less necessity for minimum wage laws.



Labor Wants Light On Taxation.

The Georgia Federation of Labor at its coming convention in April will act on information gathered during the past year on taxation. This is in accordance with the following resolution adopted at last year's convention at Macon on April 14:

Whereas, The high cost of living is a serious problem confronting the wage-workers here and everywhere; reducing many to the necessity of depriving themselves of many common needs and wants; and

Whereas, Those who pose as our guides in the affairs of the nation have advanced many so-called measures and ideas purporting to bring relief to those who are most affected; and

Whereas, These measures and ideas have proved ineffectual in every instance; and

Whereas, True students of economics agree that a practical solution of this problem can only be found in a complete change of our senseless system of taxation and the appropriation of community values for community uses, and the elimination of special privileges as exist in private ownership of public utilities; therefore be it

Resolved, That a committee be appointed from the Georgia Federation of Labor whose duty it shall be to collect data and statistics from all available sources regarding different plans of taxation as obtain in various parts of our country and report the result of such investigation—with recommendations—to the next convention.

The committee consists of Carl Karston, L. P. Marquardt and W. C. Puckett, secretary-treasurer, 919 Atlanta National Bank, Atlanta. It is asking that those in position to furnish data on the matter help by supplying it. All information must be supplied by April 1.



Tax Reform News.

In the Minnesota Legislature the following bill has been introduced by Senator Richard Jones of Duluth and Senator J. W. Pauly of Minneapolis:

Section 1. Classification of real and personal property for taxation purposes. All real and personal property subject to a general personal property tax and not subject to any gross earnings or other lieu

tax, is hereby classified for purposes of taxation as follows:

Class 1. Iron ore, whether mined or unmined, shall constitute class one, and shall be valued and assessed at fifty (50) percent of its true and full value. If unmined it shall be assessed with and as part of the real estate in which it is located, but at the rate aforesaid. The land in which iron ore is located, other than the ore, shall be classed and assessed according to the provisions of class 4. In assessing any tract or lot of land in which iron ore is known to exist, the assessable value of the ore exclusive of the land in which it is located, and the assessable value of the land exclusive of the ore shall be determined and set down separately and the aggregate of the two shall be assessed against the tract or lot.

Class 2. All household goods and furniture, including clocks, musical instruments, wearing apparel of members of the family, and all personal property actually used by the owner for personal or domestic purposes, or for the furnishing or equipment of the family residence, shall constitute class 2 and shall be valued and assessed at one (1) per cent of the full and true value thereof.

Class 3. Live stock, poultry, all agricultural products, stocks of merchandise of all sorts together with the furniture and fixtures therewith, manufacturer's materials and manufactured articles, all tools, implements and machinery, whether fixtures or otherwise, and all buildings, structures and other improvements, in or upon land shall constitute class 3 and shall be valued and assessed at ten (10) percent of the full and true value thereof.

Class 4. All right, title and interest in land, except as provided in Classes 1 and 3, and all other property not included in the three preceding classes shall constitute class 4 and shall be valued and assessed at forty (40) percent of the full and true value thereof.

If adopted the measure will go into effect on January 1, 1916. [See vol. xvii, p. 1112.]



Three hundred and forty-five manufacturing and business concerns of Rhode Island have endorsed the Home Rule on Taxation demand of the Rhode Island Tax Reform Association, of which ex-Governor Lucius C. F. Garvin is the head. Most of these have also petitioned the Legislature to pass the following bill:

Section 1. The electors of any town or city qualified to vote on a proposition to impose a tax, when legally assembled, may vote to exempt from taxation, for a period of ten years and until otherwise voted, buildings and other improvements, or tangible personal property, or both:

Provided, That during the period of any such exemption, the rate of taxation upon land may be in excess of one and one-half per centum of its ratable value; and, provided, further, that any person possessed of property, of the value of at least one hundred and thirty-four dollars, may be taxed upon that amount upon application to the assessors.

[See vol. xvii, p. 1159, current volume, page 111.]

The Legislature of Maine has under consideration a bill to exempt live stock from taxation, which is being pressed by Representative J. P. Bass of Bangor, who succeeded some years ago in securing exemption of poultry. In addressing the committee in charge of the bill on February 10 Mr. Bass declared that he favored going much further in the way of exemptions, but holds that such reforms must be accomplished piecemeal. [See vol. xvii, p. 439.]



The Massachusetts Singletax League is pressing three bills for adoption in the Legislature. These briefly are (1) to abolish the poll tax, (2) to reduce the tax on savings bank deposits, and (3) to strike out the word "proportional" from the taxation clause of the constitution. The third measure, if adopted, will open the way for classification of property. [See vol. xvii, p. 1096.]



By a vote of 81 to 59 the Missouri Legislature on February 11 rejected a proposition to resubmit an anti-Singletax movement. [See vol. xvii, p. 1141.]



City Solicitor Michael J. Ryan of Philadelphia has urged the City Councils to take action to secure legislation to prevent evasion of the mortgage tax law of the State. Mortgages in Pennsylvania are subject to a tax of four-tenths of one per cent, on which account the universal interest rate on first mortgages throughout the State is five and four-tenths per cent. But many mortgages escape paying the tax by listing their mortgages as ground rents, which under the law are exempt. Mr. Ryan urges that ground rents be taxed the same as mortgages. [See current volume page 107.]



Pastoriza Triumphantly Re-elected.

J. J. Pastoriza was re-elected Land and Tax Commissioner of Houston, Texas, on February 16 by a vote of three to one. His opponent made a vigorous campaign against the Houston plan of taxation under which personal property is not assessed for taxation, improvements are assessed at but 25 per cent and land values are assessed at a fair value. Pastoriza made practically no campaign. He simply published two advertisements twice and allowed results to speak for themselves.



Oppose Enforcement of Tax Laws.

The Chicago Singletax Club on February 12 criticized efforts made to enforce taxation of personal property in the following resolution:

Whereas an indictment has been returned against

Julius Rosenwald for failure to file a personal property tax schedule and,

Whereas, the law for enforcing the collection of personal property taxes is a menace to the public welfare and is unjust to individual tax payers, and,

Whereas, a larger proportionate tax on personality and other labor products in one city than in others, handicaps enterprise and checks development in that city, exactly as do unfavorable railroad freight rates,

Now therefore be it resolved that attempts to enforce laws that must inevitably result in injury to the city are to be deprecated; that indictments of the character of that brought against Mr. Rosenwald not only carry no stigma, but that the victims thereof, who resist a personal property tax for the reason that such tax is odious, oppressive and unjust, will some day be remembered as true patriots, and

Be it further resolved that we stand on the following declaration of principles:

1. We hold as self-evident truths; that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed; that to deprive a community of the power to make, alter or repeal any law, not injurious to other communities, is tyranny; that injustice done to individuals by the state is also tyranny, and that resistance to tyranny is patriotism.

2. Personal property taxes should be immediately abolished, either by law, or as in Houston, Texas, by common consent. Such taxes are a penalty upon integrity, and a premium on perjury, thereby reversing the axiom of the great Gladstone: "it is the duty of the state to make it easy to do right."

3. A law sufficiently drastic and harsh to enforce the collection of personal taxes would defeat itself, since everything movable would be taken out of Chicago or secreted. Bank depositors, to escape taxes, would, before April 1, withdraw their money, resulting in financial confusion and commercial disaster.

4. Tax nothing that can be secreted, carried away, or that can come to this city, or that can be produced for human benefit. Tax only the immovable land.

5. Taxation should be based on natural law, among the earmarks of which are:

a. That it must fall only on that which nature has provided without the aid of human effort, skill or enterprise.

b. That it must fall on values which are not created by individuals, but which result from the presence of the whole community. In the words of Henry George, "we would simply take for the community what belongs to the community, the value that attaches to land by the growth of the community."

c. That its collection must be so easy and simple that the criminal law will not be necessary to enforce it.



Conditions in Edmonton.

In an interview in the New York Times of February 11, Mayor W. J. McNamara of Edmonton tells about taxation and municipal ownership in that city in part as follows:

Edmonton has had the singletax from the start, but at the beginning there were little appendages,

such as a business tax, licenses and a floor tax. Finally all those were dropped and now there is only one tax assessed and that is on the land.

Our assessment is now \$178,000,000 and our tax rate for the twelve months is only about 14 mills. We have no income tax and no business or stock tax. The big Canadian plant of Swift & Co., which cost \$1,500,000 to build, and which carries a stock worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, does not pay one cent of tax on its building or stock. There is a big business block downtown that cost \$750,000 and with a store containing \$500,000 to \$750,000 worth of goods, and neither the owner of the buildings nor the tenant has to pay taxes on them. The man who owned an unimproved lot of the same size in the next block would have to pay just as much in taxes as the owner of the land upon which the buildings stand.

Now as to municipal ownership. The city of Edmonton owns the street railway, the power plant and the electric light and telephone systems. The valuation of the four is in excess of \$9,400,000.

Notwithstanding the criticisms, the reports that have come out, influenced by public utilities corporations whose interests lie in other directions than municipal ownership, to the effect that municipal ownership has fallen down in Edmonton, the premier city of Alberta, the plan has worked out successfully, and those reports are absolutely false, and our city affords a splendid vindication of the doctrine.

Now as to the telephone. In Edmonton we have a splendid system, with automatic switchboard and 11,500 connections. These pay all the way from \$20 to \$50 a telephone lower than in any city in the United States. We have no pay stations.

As for power, we generate power from coal, and are able to supply the street railway department with current at 2 cents per kilowatt per hour, the cost being 1.7 cents. To users of power for electric light service the maximum price is 7½ cents, with a discount of 10 percent and it runs as low as 3 cents. To users of considerable power for elevators, cold storage and such things we have a rate as low as 2 cents.

After depreciation, we have a surplus in the neighborhood of \$385,000, and out of this we are constructing an addition to our power plant, by means of which we shall be able to supply power at half a cent less per kilowatt than at present.

Altogether Edmonton, in spite of the fact that we have come in for a great deal of criticism and of charges that we have fallen down on municipal ownership, is a great vindication of the practicality of that and of the singletax.

[See vol. xvii, pp. 869, 1111, 1183.]



Land Party Begun.

The Land Party is a new political organization formed at New York on January 6. Its platform declares that land is rightfully common property, that all men have equal rights to its use, that the annual rental value of land should be taken for public purposes and further that: "Nothing can be gained for a good cause by voting for its ene-

mies or its inactive friends. When aspirants for office cannot be relied on to support these principles ably and honestly, the Land Party will nominate its own candidates, especially for offices having to do with the making and enforcement of laws affecting taxation and land monopoly." A provisional executive committee was formed to take further steps to organize the party. The committee is headed by George Wallace of Freeport, New York. Other members are A. Bastida, 111 Broadway, New York City; Alfred Bourgeois, Belleville, N. J.; William J. Wallace, Newark, N. J.; A. G. Sullivan, Farmingdale, N. Y.; Burton E. Carpenter, Cleveland, Ohio; Gaston Haxo, New York City.

NEWS NOTES

—The Utah State Senate passed a statewide prohibition bill on February 11.

—The Georgia Supreme Court on February 13 held unconstitutional an ordinance of the Atlanta City Council to segregate residences of Negroes.

—Fines aggregating \$125,000 were levied on five Chicago packing firms by the Missouri Supreme Court on February 9 for violation of the anti-trust law of the state.

—The Iowa State Senate on February 12 voted to submit a prohibition constitutional amendment. If adopted by the House, it must be passed again by the next legislature before being submitted.

—Lincoln, Illinois, adopted a commission form of government on February 11 by a vote of 1,420 to 1,293. Male voters opposed the change by a majority of 143 but this was overcome by the women's vote.

—Charles Opel, of Kansas City, died at the age of 58, after a three months' illness. Mr. Opel had been a resident only five years, but his restless activity in the interests of progress had won him a place in the hearts of reformers who are trying to secure real reform. He was a staunch supporter of the Singletax. Mr. Opel is survived by his widow, five sons, two daughters, and a sister.

—Dr. Francis A. Tappan, of Kansas City, died after an illness of two weeks at the age of 71. Dr. Tappan went to Kansas City in 1867. He was at one time city physician and was noted for his civic interest. He gave much effort to perfecting Kansas City's park and boulevard system. A liberal in politics, he has been a supporter of the Singletax movement for many years. Dr. Tappan is survived by his widow and one daughter, Mrs. Lucile Tappan Moreland.

PRESS OPINIONS

Wartime Amenities.

Daily News and Leader (London), December 29.—One of the odd and far from gratifying by-products of the war is a temporary suspension of the trade between the belligerents in literature. "That a Munich

paper should be irritated by this stupidity is natural, but its way of expressing its annoyance is hardly worthy of a city which with no little justice claims to be the most cultured in Germany. "The country of poets and thinkers," it exclaims, "can assuredly dispense with the privilege of seeing in its market the miserable products of English literature. We are indeed glad if the English keep their so-called literature for themselves. What little of it has any value was long ago published by German publishers. There is about enough of it to fill a bookcase of moderate size." He is a rigorous fellow is this writer in the standard he applies to others. Happy the country that can fill even a moderate-sized bookcase with matter to his taste. But surely he is falling a trifle below his own high philosophic level in suggesting that a nation of poets and thinkers can dispense with the literature of another great nation. It is precisely such nations which insist on companionship with fine minds and fine artists, whatever their political allegiance. This war has had many absurd and evil consequences; but if it is to set the nations of the world denying their intellectual debts to one another and building iron frontier round things of the spirit, then the world will have reeled back into the most terrible of all barbarisms. Exhausted old professors and infatuated scribblers may in a Jingo fever preach a holy war against science and art and literature in the name of nationalism; but those who know there is a higher light for the guidance of man than the flash of steel will welcome truth and beauty under whatever flag they be found.



Tolerance Overcoming Bigotry.

Emporia (Kas.) Gazette, February 4.—In Fort Scott . . . a man's club discussed Eugene Ware and his work. Naturally the discussion focused on the Washerwoman's Song, and a sequel to it which Ware wrote to a man . . . who baited the poet, and which follows:

I see the spire,
I see the throng,
I hear the choir,
I hear the song;
I listen to the anthem while
It pours its volume down the aisle;
I listen to the splendid rhyme
That, with a melody sublime,
Tells of some far-off fadeless clime
Of man and his finality,
Of hope and immortality.

Oh, theme of themes,
Are men mistaught?
Are hopes like dreams,
To come to naught?
Is all the beautiful and good
Delusive and misunderstood?
And has the soul no forward reach?
And do indeed the facts impeach
The theories that teachers teach?
And is this immortality
Delusion or reality?

What hope reveals
Mind tries to clasp,
But soon it reels
With broken grasp.
No chain yet forged on anvil's brink
Was stronger than its weakest link;
And are there not along this chain
Imperfect links that snap in twain
When caught in logic's tensile strain?
And is not immortality
The child of ideality?

And yet—at times—
We get advice
That seems like chimes
From paradise;
The soul doth sometimes seem to be
In sunshine which it cannot see;
At times the spirit seems to roam
Beyond the land, above the foam,
Back to some half-forgotten home,
Perhaps—this immortality
May be indeed reality.

. . . These lines forced Eugene Ware out of Kansas politics. . . . He had an ambition to go to Congress, but the church people would not let him go after writing those lines. He had raised the doubt of Heaven, and Heaven as a reward for good conduct was the basis of religion in those days; just as hell, as a punishment, was the chief religious reason assigned for avoiding bad conduct. . . . Good Eugene Ware; if he were a young man today, Kansas would send him to Congress for writing the poem, instead of penalizing him for it. How far we have come in forty years! Disputes over creeds are passing; the doctrine of the apostolic succession, which the Catholics hold, does not keep the Methodists from fraternizing with the Catholics in every good cause. . . . Heaven and hell no longer are the chief ends of religious life. . . . Men don't avoid evil to keep from going to hell, but because they know that meanness makes its own hell here on this earth, and that in the long run it pays to be decent. . . . And Heaven—no man whose mind could conceive of a Heaven that would be less than a boredom, would go there if he had to go alone, if he couldn't save his fellows by saving himself. . . . We have come a long, long way in religion in forty years. And we are going forward fast. It would be fine to be here fifty years from now!



A Typical Monopolist.

The Ground Hog (Cleveland), February 13.—The town of Huddersfield, in England, is owned by John F. Ramsden, who receives from his estate an annual ground rent of \$900,000. Every man, woman and child in the place pays to him an average tribute of \$8 a year for the privilege of living there. Three hundred years ago the yearly rental value of Huddersfield was \$125. The estate was sold by the crown in 1599 to an ancestor of the present owner for \$4,875. What it is worth now is incalculable. This enormous increment was piled up by Ramsden's present tenants and their forbears, but he gets it all. Mr. Ramsden does not believe in a tax on land-values only.

A Lesson for Us.

Collier's, January 23.—According to Mr. Thomas Dreier of Cambridge, Mass., when a man is found drunk in the streets of Copenhagen

he is placed in a cab, taken to the police station, examined by a doctor, and then sent home in the cab. Next morning the bill for the doctor and the cab is sent to the publican who served the victim with his last drink. This is all very well, but our smart lawyers would make short work of such a statute. They would prove: First, that the man was in a twilight state of illness; second, that he had had another drink later; third, that the barkeeper was trying to sober him; fourth, that the fine amounted to an unconstitutional confiscation of property; and fifth, that two commas were misplaced in the roundsman's report of the affair. That plan may work well in Copenhagen, but the United States is different.

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

THE TWILIGHT OF THE KINGS

For The Public.

"This is the twilight of the kings."—New York World.

"This is the twilight of the kings," men say.

Too long, indeed, the will of one ordained,
Because he thought that in himself there reigned
Almighty God, to ope or close the way
Of racial weal. But now a better day
Close follows on a sun but lately waned,
And short the night wherein the nations 'plained

There was no one to lead or give them stay.
God's tabernacle is with humankind,

And every man may enter in to pray!
Democracy has found a straighter way
To truth than kings e'er shouted down the wind.
Silent the cannon, melted pelf and crown,
Behold "the Holy City coming down"!

RICHARD WARNER BORST.

**MEXICO.**

For The Public.

In a certain country the sheep had made war on the wolves. The dogs, tame though flesh-eating cousins of the wolves, had thrown in their strength and craft for the most part on the side of the sheep, and had put so much new courage into ram, ewe, and lambkin that victory was again and again on their side.

A few wolves and now and then even a sheep, having ventured into this country from other lands, came to grief. A very few were even slain. In all the neighboring communities of beasts the cry went up, "This killing and destruction is not to be borne! Let us rush in and stop it!" The more a given parliament was dominated by

wolves, the more surely this cry was raised and the more woful it became. Yet the valor of the sheep in the warring country, and of their dog allies, put caution also into the minds of their neighbors.

Then a wise plan was made. "We will appeal to the world-old simplicity and gentleness of sheep," declared these earnest lovers of quiet, "and will entreat them to lay their quarrel before a congress that we shall set up. Nothing shall be charged for our service and we will adjust everything about which there is dispute. So a proposal was made to the sheep. "We thank you," they answered, taking advice of their friends the dogs, "and we wish you had given thought to our troubles long ago when the wolves were eating us up. Yet since you did not, and since you have not yet settled the quarrel between sheep and wolves within your own borders, we fear to let you judge our case. We fear your congress might consider too much the vested right of wolves to have mutton. We will fight on, rather, till we have brought our foes to terms."

Some sheep and a few dogs in the neighbor countries approved this as wise; but all the wolves were agreed in declaring it both wickedness and folly.

E. H. BLICKFELDT.



THE COMMUNITY'S DUTY TO THE POOR.

From a Private Letter by Frederic C. Howe, Commissioner of Immigration.

I am very glad to amplify what I said in Cleveland in reference to private organized charity. I do not believe in it; do not believe that organized society has any right to turn this most sacred of all functions over to any private agency. Even though it might have been justified fifty or a hundred years ago, it is no longer justified when industrial conditions make it impossible for the individual to control his work, own his tools, or create opportunity of any kind. Charity is a social, not an individual burden, and society itself should maintain all of its relief agencies. Certainly it should maintain the most sacred of all, the investigation, care and maintenance of those least able to care for themselves. It should substitute municipal relief for private relief.

Further than that, I think it is an arrogant assumption for the rich to pass upon the worthiness or unworthiness of the poor. If anyone is to perform this function it ought to be the poor themselves. Christ was very loath to judge; and the judgments registered by organized charity through paid employes do as much to destroy the self-respect of the poor and make them feel that they are charity patients as anything I know.

I am speaking just as strongly as I can about this, because I feel just as strongly as a man

could on this subject. I believe in a public police and health department, but I believe far more in a public relief department.

Further than this, we are, so far as I know, the only civilized people who sanction the idea that one class should be endowed officially with the right to look after another class. Foreign autocratic countries perform all their relief through public agencies.

I will even go farther. In my opinion private organized charity is an obstacle in the way of justice. If we had no such organizations men would think of fundamental reforms; they would think of ways and means to abolish the causes of poverty, rather than the consequences of it. I know of many instances where organized charity opposed practical movements, like motherhood pensions, minimum wages, and housing reforms. Why? It seems rather hard to say it, but I believe it was because the class which administers charity is the class responsible for poverty. It is responsible through the unjust economic conditions which this class perpetuates. And it is the very halo which organized charity throws around itself that makes it doubly difficult for us to penetrate to the real cause of industrial injustice and put an end to it.

There is nothing radical in what I am saying. Practically all of the poor feel this way; they all feel that their self-respect is undermined every time they have to go to a charity organization society, and they only go to them as a last resort. And we have no right to require this of them. You, I, or anyone else maimed, injured and distressed by the injustice of present-day conditions have a right to go to our fellows, to the city, to the community, and demand that the community itself shall bear the costs of the community's own wrongs or of industry's wrongs, for the wreckage of society today is social; it is no longer personal.

In speaking thus directly, it is with no criticism of any individuals, or any lack of respect for individual men who are engaged in organized charity. It is the system that I protest against, just as I protest against the system which permits bankers whom I respect to organize monopolies, or individual railroad men to exploit the community. As individuals I have respect for them, but I do not believe in the institutions which they, in an impersonal way, use for the exploitation of society.



THE REGULATORS AND THE LIBERATORS.

Abstract of Address Before the Woman's Single Tax Club of Washington, D. C., December 7, 1914.
By William D. Mackenzie.

In his recent book entitled, "Forty Years of It"—one of the most charming autobiographies ever

written—Brand Whitlock describes some of his experiences while mayor of Toledo. He tells us how his life was made burdensome by certain industrious groups of reformers who were forever invoking the policeman's club to keep other people in "the strait and narrow way" of virtue and propriety. They belonged to the Grand Army of regulators who firmly believe that all wrong-doing can be cured by passing and enforcing laws. Their historical prototypes were the English Puritans who frowned on all forms of amusement, and the Scotch Calvinists who deemed it a crime to whistle or take a walk on "the Sawbath."

The regulator is still "on the job." We begin by regulating the children. They need judicious control and restraint, but over-regulation is injurious. We have all heard of the mother whose orders were to "find out what Johnny is doing, and tell him to quit it." When the little ones become old enough, we sentence them to go to school, where they are required to sit in a straight-backed seat and keep perfectly still for several hours at a time. Inside of Johnnie and Susie are certain natural impulses which prompt them to run and jump, to talk and shout and laugh. But the school regulator says, "No, you must keep quiet now and learn your lessons."

Mrs. Marietta L. Johnson, through her wonderful Organic School in Fairhope, Alabama, is showing us the better way. She understands Nature's method of education through pleasureable self-activity, and she provides an environment which answers to the organic needs of the children. Her pioneer work is of immense importance, and it deserves more financial support than it has so far received. The old-fashioned school develops both slaves and rebels. The new Organic School will give us healthy, free-minded young men and women—fit citizens for a free republic.

Here in Washington, which ought to be the model city of the nation, we are afflicted with what are known as alley slums, and we have developed a special group of social workers who are trying to abolish the slums, or to alleviate their conditions. Here, as in other cities, the unfortunate slum dwellers are preached at, and given a generous supply of advice about health, temperance, and thrift. It is assumed that they live in the slums either because they like it or because they are wicked and indolent. In point of fact, they are too poor to live in less crowded and miserable quarters. Their wages are too low, and their tenure of employment too uncertain. What they need is less charity and regulation and more justice and opportunity.

For about forty years past, our social workers have been trying to secure legislation for the elimination of these inhabited alleys. Congress has at last been persuaded to enact a law which prohibits the occupation of these alley dwellings after 1918. But this law is only the beginning of the

solution of our housing problem. The closing of the alleys will mean fewer houses. What is needed is a greater number of sanitary dwellings at a low rental. These dwellings can be provided in either of two ways—by municipal housing, which is the method of regulation, or by the Singletax, which is the method of liberation. Neither method can be adopted without legislative authority. The first method is costly and cumbersome. The second is simple and easily applied. Stop taxing dwellings, and more dwellings will be erected. Double the tax on land values, and home-sites will become available at a lower cost. The combination of cheaper home-sites and untaxed buildings will result in better homes for the people at a much lower rental.

Minimum wage laws, laws for breaking up red-light districts, laws compelling trusts and corporations to be good—are other examples of superficial reform and regulation. These laws are all more or less inevitable in the present stage of popular enlightenment, but none of them reach the fundamental causes of the evils at which they are aimed.

In order that we may practice the Golden Rule in the most effective possible way, we must study human needs. The world's greatest need is not coercion, not repression, not regulation, not the policeman's club, not the hangman's noose, not jails nor prisons; but freedom and opportunity for all; political, industrial, and educational opportunity; the chance for each of us to grow, and work, and live a free, full, human life. And this ideal can not be realized until we learn how to break the shackles of monopoly and privilege, and to unlock natural opportunities.

In the centuries to come, Henry George will be revered as one of the world's greatest liberators, because he traced out the causes of industrial slavery, and presented a logical and practical method for making men and women industrially free. The shifting of taxation to land values will liberate industry and commerce. By forcing land into use, it will compel landlords to compete for tenants, and employers to compete for laborers, thus opening the door of emancipation for the wage-worker and the tenant-farmer, and removing one of the fundamental causes of slum conditions.



THE CALF PATH.

Sam Walter Foss.

One day through the primeval wood
A calf walked home, as good calves should;

But left a trail all bent askew,
A crooked trail, as all calves do.

Since then, three hundred years have fled,
And, I infer, the calf is dead.

But still he left behind this trail,
And thereby hangs my moral tale.

The trail was taken up next day
By a lone dog that passed that way;

And then a wise bell-wether sheep
Pursued the trail o'er vale and steep,

And drew the flock behind him, too,
As good bell-wethers always do.

So from that day, o'er hill and glade,
Through those old woods a path was made,

And many men wound in and out,
And bent and turned and dodged about,

And uttered words of righteous wrath,
Because 'twas such a crooked path;

But still they followed—do not laugh—
The first migrations of that calf,

And through this winding woodway stalked
Because he wobbled when he walked.

This forest path became a lane,
That bent and turned and turned again;

This crooked lane became a road,
Where many a poor horse, with his load,

Toiled on, beneath the burning sun,
And traveled some three miles in one.

And thus a century and a half
They trod the footsteps of that calf.

The years passed on with swiftness fleet,
The road became a village street,

And this, before men were aware,
A city's crowded thoroughfare.

And soon the central street was this
Of a renowned metropolis.

And men two centuries and a half
Trod the footsteps of that calf.

Each day a hundred thousand rout
Followed the zigzag calf about;

And o'er his crooked journey went
The traffic of a continent.

A hundred thousand men were led
By one calf near three centuries dead.

They followed still his crooked way,
And lost one hundred years a day;

For thus such reverence is lent
To well-established precedent.

A moral lesson this might teach,
Were I ordained and called to preach.

For men are prone to go it blind
Along the calf-paths of the mind,

And toil away from sun to sun
To do what other men have done.

They follow in the beaten track,
And out and in, and forth and back,

And still their devious course pursue
To keep the path that others do.

But how the wise old wood-gods laugh,
Who saw the first primeval calf!

Ah! many things this tale might teach:—
But I am not ordained to preach.

BOOKS

LABOR UNIONS INTERPRETED.

American Labor Unions. By Helen Marot. Published by Henry Holt & Co., New York. 1915. Price, \$1.25 net.

There are several sorts of readers to welcome Miss Marot's book: The young worker, who has joined the union as a matter of course, but knows little or nothing of union traditions and ideals, will profit by this record of aims and achievement. So too will the social worker who has so often run amuck of the prejudices, and stayed to admire the loyalties among the organized workingmen and women. But more than anyone else will the plain citizen be glad to supplement his befuddling newspaper with an orderly narrative and a simple characterization of the labor unions in America. The book frankly—"by a member"—is sympathetic with the union point of view but not uncritical of it. "My object," the author says, "has been to interpret each one of these organizations as it interprets itself, with this difference: I have noted the criticisms made by the different groups within the labor movement of each of the others, when these criticisms deal with fundamental things."

Just what the Industrial Workers of the World hold against the American Federation of Labor, and wherein they are not yet true Syndicalists; what are the perplexities of the union labelists, what the most recent labor laws; why unionists look with deep disfavor upon "scientific efficiency" that purposes to gather in all the rule of thumb knowledge of all workmen, "the last vestiges of capital left to the workingman"—all this information follows the first and best chapter where Miss Marot holds the unionist mirror up to Philanthropy and interprets the image thereon.

A. L. G.

PERIODICALS

A History of the War.

The New York Times' Current History of the European War (Times Square, New York, Price, 25 cents) the first number of which appeared on December 12 and the fifth on February 6, will hereafter be published regularly as a monthly. No one, it would seem—at least no American—will care to read any

number from cover to cover; but every one who puts the "history" on his bookshelf will some day thankfully find there the very thing talked about and not printed in his daily paper, or seen in yesterday's headlines and lost in today's news. The longer the war continues the wiser we realize all the belligerents' strict censorship to have been. For to subject any nation simultaneously to both a war and a flood of stories from the front, would be to overtax the strong and drive mad the weak. America is a sturdy nation. But she needs all the peace she has if she is to do one-half the reading and thinking that distracted Europe thrusts upon her and that her awakened world-conscience will not let alone.

A. L. G.



Congressmen and a Suffragist.

The Congressman who sees himself in the February Atlantic as the woman lobbyist for suffrage has seen him in the House Office building at Washington will find solace only in the numerousness of his company. Matilda Hall Gardner's notes of her experiences in going from Congressman to Congressman for direct statements of their position on woman suffrage are delightfully, humanly funny. "The mentalities of Congressmen," as the writer remarks, "are not necessarily sectional," for instance—and the instances are the reader's joy. But how, one anxiously inquires, can the women lobbyists afford to give away so lavishly the secrets of their trade? Is their work all done? Or are Congressmen alone "astute"?—In the same number of the Atlantic is an essay by

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the international lawyer, Paul Fuller, on Legal Neutrality versus Moral Neutrality—the legally and historically buttressed expression of some plain American citizens' rules of self-conduct for the war.

A. L. G.



Professor (in history)—“How was Alexander II of Russia killed?”

Freshman—“By a bomb.”

Professor—“How do you account for that?”

Freshman—“It exploded.”—Punch Bowl.



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FOREST TAXATION AND THE SINGLETAX

WOULD the adoption of the Singletax leave a tree standing or even permit one to grow?

Judged by its report at the 1913 National Conservation Congress, the Committee on Taxation apparently thought not.

Louis S. Murphy of the Forestry Department will analyze this subject in the next issue of The Public, which will be a Forestry Number.

It will be published in two parts. Part Two will include a special article by Mr. Murphy, a resolution introduced by him at the Joseph Fels Fund Conference in Washington, and other germane matter.

This issue will interest greatly every singletaxer who appreciates the importance of the Conservation movement. Single Copies, 5c; Fifty Copies, \$1.

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At the age of fifty we discover that not much is done in a lifetime, and yet that, notwithstanding all the immeasurable ignorance and stupidity of the majority of the race, there is a gradual and sensible victory being gained over barbarism and wrong of

every kind. I think we may, in some sort, console ourselves. If we cannot win as fast as we wish, we know that our opponents cannot in the long run win at all.—Trevelyan's Life of John Bright, page 279.

"German Efficiency"

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