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EDITORIAL

Protective Tariff and War.

The saying that it is an ill wind which blows no good may even be proven true in the case of the European war. It is beginning to impress some persons, business men as well as members of other classes, with certain important economic truths. Encouraging testimony to this effect is presented by the American Meat Trade and Retail Butchers' Journal in the issue of March 11. Says the Journal:

In one respect the big war may prove almost a blessing to the people of this country. We mean that the lesson which it teaches as to the interdependence of the commercial nations is of the utmost importance, and if that lesson is so driven home to our people that they will be able to understand how protective tariffs really operate, and realize the possible consequences in international hatreds and wars, the European disaster will be an actual blessing to them.

The Journal offers food for thought to those peace advocates who do not yet see that the easiest way to abolish war is to remove its cause. S. D.



War Prices.

Mars is an ugly customer, no matter what his mood. No sooner are his demands met in one respect than he renews them in another. The British have succeeded in recruiting their army without resorting to conscription, but now the government is at its wits' ends to meet the demands of the people at home. Prices of food and coal have risen to such an extent that it means great hardship for the people, and they are clamoring for relief. The citizen blames the baker for the price of bread; the baker accuses the miller, the miller the farmer and importer, and the importer the shipowners; and there is a general cry for a reduction in freight rates. But to meet this demand is not so easy as some seem to think. It is by no means certain that the government will solve the problem by taking over the shipping or by arbitrarily reducing the rates.

The law of supply and demand obtains in war as well as in peace. Millions of men taken from the ranks of production, and organized for purposes of destruction, must necessarily change the relation of people to goods. When Great Britain withdrew fifteen hundred vessels from the carrying trade, and devoted them to military purposes, there was an inevitable advance in freight rates. And it should be nothing short of the direst necessity that would warrant the government in restoring the rates to the former level. There is now great risk in the carrying trade. If a vessel be lost the insurance is small compensation, because the ship cannot be replaced for a long time, which deprives the owners of their income during the period of waiting. If the government should take over the ships, or compel a return to normal rates, there would be great confusion in shipping circles. The tonnage available is sufficient to carry only a small part of the goods to be moved. The advance in rates has sifted the freights until only those of most urgent need are forwarded. But if rates were to be reduced to the normal level, with the present tonnage shortage, all manner of things would be offered, and great congestion would result. To fix an arbitrary freight rate would necessitate the government's discrimination in saying what freight should be accepted. To suspend the law of supply and demand during the war would likely engulf the government in more troubles than it cured. Every interest depends upon another, and the changing of one necessitates mending of all. If wages are not sufficient to provide a living at present prices, it were better for the government to arbitrarily increase wages, than to begin meddling with prices. Thus is it becoming more and more apparent that the evils of war are not confined entirely to the field of battle. Mars is a disagreeable fellow, whether at home or abroad.

s. c.



Socialists Finding Their Voices.

There are unmistakable evidences that the Socialists of Europe, who were swept off their feet by the suddenness of the war, are recovering themselves. The recent meeting in London of Socialists from Russia, France, Belgium, and England, formulated resolutions that are likely to receive the endorsement of the German Socialists, when they are free to express themselves. This statement attributes the war to the greedy colonial policies, for which all the governments were in some degree responsible; but it is pointed out that the invasion of Belgium was a disregard

of treaty rights, which, if unrebuked, would mean the overthrow of liberty. But though the members of the London conference insist that the war must go on, they are determined that it shall not become a war of conquest, and demand that all peoples annexed by force, from Alsace to the Balkans, shall have the right to determine their own destinies. The resolutions protest against the oppression of the Finns, the Jews, and the Poles. The demand for a plebiscite to determine what government the various peoples shall live under, is growing in volume. It is urged by the South-German Socialists, and by the Socialists of Munich. There can be little doubt that as the war goes on the Socialists of Europe will join the steadily growing body of men and women who are becoming more and more insistent that it shall be stopped, and stopped in a way to bring lasting peace.

s. c.



The Beam in Our Eye.

No American opposed to immediate Philippine independence can consistently criticize any foreign government for invasion of the territory of another or for forcible annexation of any part of it. So long as independence is withheld from the Filipinos, so long is the American government in no position to preach justice in international matters to foreign nations.

s. d.



Mexico, and Again, Mexico.

Once more the jingoes are buckling on their armor for the conquest of Mexico. Again they have set to baiting the President and the Secretary of State. They demand a Fundamental Policy, a Definite Purpose. Even so sane and sensible a paper as the Chicago Evening Post has joined in the cry for Mexican intervention. In several editorials, showing how futile have been our acts and policies in the past, it demands that we do for Mexico what we did for Cuba. And, as evidence that it has struck a popular chord, interviews appear in its news columns, endorsing its proposed action. One man likens the trouble to a fire next door, which must be put out, lest it extend to our own house. The longer it is allowed to burn, the greater will be the danger. Another, Colonel Henry Lathrop Turner, President of the National Defense of America, is strong for the immediate intervention in Mexico. "There is no one in the United States now," said Colonel Turner, "who is not convinced that immediate action is imperative. We have simply got to go in there." And then he falls to lament-

ing the fact that we have no army to send into Mexico. We must get one as quickly as possible, and then use it. Another man, prominent in business, insists not only upon intervention, but upon annexation. "I have been an advocate of annexation for years," he says, "and the idea is rapidly gaining strength among the most thoughtful people of our country."

One flash of reason appeared among the interviews, and from a source that some would least expect. The Rev. Thomas V. Shannon, editor in chief of the *New World*, official organ of the Catholic archdiocese of Chicago, who claims extensive acquaintance among the Mexican clergy, declares that in spite of all their discomforts on account of the revolution, they are against intervention by this country. "They cherish the sovereignty of Mexico," he says, "and fear to see it despoiled. Aside from their patriotic motives they refuse to sanction any plan that would entail bloodshed."

Will not these good people remain patient a little longer? America has set up a new ideal in international statecraft, and until it has been tried as long at least as the old plans that have so signally failed, it is not fair or just to denounce it as a failure. There is confusion in Mexico. The country lacks a stable government. But we may now be upon the very threshold of a return to law and order—plus justice. There is at present little real fighting; the people appear to be tiring of it; and when they settle down to law and order of their own accord it will be in a different mood from that which would follow our intervention. Comparing Europe with Mexico today, who will say that watchful waiting has been a failure? Just a little more patience, gentlemen!

S. C.

Barbarism No Cure for Barbarism.

The murder of an American in Mexico furnishes the jingoes with renewed zeal for intervention. The demand comes chiefly from the same crowd that has all along desired that protection be furnished American monopolistic interests. But even if this were not the case there would be no justification for the sacrifice of lives to punish a murder, no matter what the nationality of the victim may be. Foreigners in Mexico were warned long ago of the risk they assume in remaining in the country while trouble lasts. If, to protect their financial interests or for any

other reason, they persist in taking risk, then their countrymen at home can not reasonably be required to assume the burden of protecting or avenging them. Conditions which render life and property unsafe will prove far more injurious to citizens of the country where these conditions prevail than they will to foreigners. No punitive expedition is needed to avenge the murder of McManus. It is not necessary that the individuals guilty of the crime be murdered in turn. The crime will surely bring its own punishment. Should it not result in adoption by Mexicans themselves of means to prevent further acts of the kind, disorder and insecurity will prevail from which the chief sufferers will be the natives. Aggressive war is no remedy for barbarism practiced by individuals who commit a single murder.

S. D.

United States of South America.

So accustomed have we become to hearing of the Yellow Peril, of British Greed, and German Tyranny, that it comes almost as a shock to hear of Yankee Grabbing. Yet this thought runs through the minds of a great many people living between the Rio Grande and Cape Horn. And the warning cry of Mr. Santiago Perez Triana, a well known South American publicist, that "Yankee Imperialism and German Militarism must be crushed," awakens a significant response from various points in South America. Mr. Triana urges a Spanish-American union, rather than a Pan-American alliance; the United States of South America should be the answer to the United States of North America, in order that those weaker countries can be sure of their rights. The Maracaibo Fonografo, commenting favorably on Mr. Triana's proposition, points to the despoiling of Colombia in taking Panama from her as evidence of what other weak countries may expect when our interests conflict. The Fonografo notes the difference in the utterances of President Wilson, and some of his predecessors, but adds that there is often a wide separation between words and deeds. It calls attention to the fact that even under this administration, "the United States has assumed the administration of the customs of Santo Domingo, and has endorsed the proposals of a syndicate of American bankers whereby the finances of Nicaragua pass into the hands of Wall Street."

It is little less than tragic that a country whose dominant opinion leans so much toward idealism, and whose leading men and women of affairs oc-

cupy such a high moral plane regarding international comity, should be looked upon by its weaker neighbors as a peril. Mr. Triana probably looks upon the United States with the same dread and distrust that Mr. Hobson looks upon Japan, and sees the same urgency for meeting the threatened danger by adequate military preparation. All countries have their Hobsons, their Jingoos, and their demagogues; but America, of all nations, has least excuse to offer. The despoiling of Mexico was scarce lived down in the half century following, when we stripped Spain of her colonies, and that was quickly followed by the dismemberment of Colombia. Can we wonder at the doubt some Spanish-Americans have of our integrity? Fair professions we have always made, but to the weaker peoples who lie within our power, our actions are apt to speak louder than words.



It was not until the present Administration that our words have had the ring of sincerity. When President Wilson declared that this country would not take another foot of territory by force, and followed it by accepting the mediation of the A. B. C. powers of South America and the voluntary withdrawal of our forces from Vera Cruz without claiming territory or indemnity, he did more to establish the integrity of the United States in the eyes of South Americans than all the preceding administrations had done. But it still remains to be shown whether the ideals raised by Mr. Wilson will be accepted by his own people. Jingoos and the demagogues even now cry for the annexation of Mexico, and refuse to give up the Philippines. Who can say with full assurance that the man who follows Mr. Wilson in the White House will not repeat Mr. Roosevelt's act in despoiling Colombia? The treaty making amends to that country still remains unratified, which leaves us open to various imputations from our enemies. If America wishes to play the role of peacemaker, and exert in international affairs an uplifting influence, she must come with clean hands.

s. c.



Pension Profligacy.

One of the omissions of the 63d Congress, for which a large number of people will feel grateful, was its failure to pass the special pension bill for the widows and minor children of soldiers and sailors of the Spanish war and "Philippine Insurrection." The present law provides for the widows and children of men killed in the war, or dying from disabilities due to service in that war. But

the bill that failed of passage in the 63d Congress provides pensions for widows and children of soldiers and sailors who served in those wars for ninety days, regardless of how they died. And while the estimated expense of such a bill is estimated to be only two and a half million dollars a year, experience warns us that this is merely the beginning; and that it will grow year by year until we have the dollar-a-day pension for all participants of that war. The bill failed in the last session, but it will be reintroduced in the next Congress; and unless a vigorous opposition is offered by those having at heart the real welfare of the country, it will be added to the enormous burden the country already bears. Forty-six million dollars have already been paid in pensions on account of the Spanish war and Philippine insurrection. Nearly four and a half billion dollars in pensions have been paid on account of the Civil war. And there seems to be a determination in some quarters to maintain our maximum pension roll of a hundred and seventy million dollars a year, by enlarging the list from the later wars as fast as the victims of the earlier wars disappear. One should not grudge such comfort as a pension may bring to the widow of a soldier dying while serving his country, or to the soldier himself when crippled; but to put on the pension roll the names of men, who served but three months, and suffered no harm—possibly never getting beyond the training camps—is placing patriotism on a pretty low level. If this is to be the line of future legislation, there should be a distinct understanding that the men who enlist do so purely for the monetary consideration involved, wholly aside from any sense of patriotism.



If there is no way of stemming this tide it were better that Congress established a general system of old age pensions. A system of government aid that permits one man to qualify by three months of service in a training camp, and denies another who has spent forty years in a shop or mine, has little to commend it to any except the beneficiaries. Everyone conversant with affairs at Washington during the past forty years knows the terrorizing effect of the cry: "Favors for the old soldiers." No one begrudged aid to the families of the men killed in the war, nor to the men who were injured; but unscrupulous politicians seized upon it as a means of furthering their own ends, and played upon the feelings of the old soldiers until it became an evil influence in legislation. And yet men are talking of Mexican intervention, which military men say would

require five hundred thousand men to carry out to the best advantage. Not only should we have the vast immediate expense to bear in conducting such a war, with its pitiable toll of dead and maimed; but we should look forward to at least two billion dollars in pensions. Wars are unspeakably evil during the killing time; they are a life-long burden during the paying time.

S. C.



Incurably Blind.

Experience is said to be the best teacher. But even its pedagogic ability proves vain when applied to a certain type of mind. A number of samples of such type must be in the lower House of the Nebraska Legislature which has just passed a bill to sell the remaining school lands of the State. Experience shows that every State or community which has done that has made a serious mistake. Chicago is an extreme example. Had it retained possession of the entire square mile of school land which it once had, its school fund would today have as income the ground rental of the greater part of the city's central business district. Minnesota, which was wise enough to retain much of its school land, is benefiting by this policy in drawing a handsome revenue therefrom. Nebraska has already sold the most valuable part of its school lands in the eastern part of the State. Legislators who are not experience-proof can easily determine how much better off the State would be had it retained these lands, and can learn from this the unwisdom of selling remaining lands. Perhaps there are enough members of that kind in the State Senate to prevent such a mistake.

S. D.



Cincinnati Monopolists Jolted.

A rude awakening has come to Cincinnati franchise monopolists who dreamed that the progressive wave had spent itself and that a reaction is now on. The awakening shock came on Tuesday, March 9, when a special election was held on the question of a new twenty-five year franchise for the street railways connecting the city with Kentucky suburbs. The proposed franchise was of the old fashioned kind, the city giving everything and getting practically nothing. The franchise came before council, and, as in the old days, passed promptly in spite of protests. It went up to the mayor for his signature, who, as mayors did in the old days, went through the form of appearing to hesitate and to listen to objections—and then signed. Had this occurred in

1905 instead of 1915 the story would have ended then and there.



But Cincinnati has the Initiative and Referendum. It has also a Peoples Power League headed by Herbert S. Bigelow. The league at once prepared to secure signatures for a referendum on the franchise at the regular election in November. The corporation heads laughed at this. The people would endorse the franchise overwhelmingly, they thought. Had they not read in the Times-Star, the Enquirer and other plutocratic organs that "corporation baiting" has become unpopular? Had these papers not told them that agitators like Bigelow are now discredited with the people? So they sent the Peoples Power League an arrogant message. They would not wait for a referendum vote in November. They challenged the league to let the matter be decided at a special election on the earliest possible date. In behalf of the league Mr. Bigelow replied that a special election would be a needless expense to the city and would, besides, require signatures of 20 per cent of the voters, which with its limited funds the league could not easily get. "Then we'll get up our own referendum petition," answered the corporation. And it did. In a few days it secured 30,000 signatures or 10,000 more than it needed.



The campaign was brief. "The issue is 'Business or Bigelowism,'" shouted the corporation and its hangeron. The Peoples Power League had a campaign fund of only \$250. The corporation could evidently engage in most lavish expenditures, for advertisements appeared in all of the papers and on all the billboards appealing to the voters to "let business alone." Business organizations, as they too often do, failed to notice that it was not useful business interests but monopoly's interests which were at stake, with which useful business has nothing in common. They let themselves be used as catspaws for the corporations in working for the franchise. But "you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." On election day, March 9, the franchise was beaten by 9,000 majority, in spite of the fact that the total vote was light and every available vote that the corporation could possibly get was brought out. Cincinnati's traction magnates are no longer cocksure that the "progressive wave" has passed. The result not only disposes of a brazen attempt to grab a few streets, but it bodes ill to the stolen fifty-year franchise under

which a big traction monopoly holds all the other streets of the city. That franchise comes up for revision next year, and its holders have even less cause than their recently defeated brethren to expect justice for them to be tempered with mercy.



The fact must not be lost sight of that the referendum has again been shown to be an excellent means of blocking betrayal of trust on the part of officials whose attitude toward popular rights is that of ignorance, indifference or contempt.

S. D.



Progressive Seattle.

Seattle gave its reactionaries a jolt at the recent election. There, as elsewhere, opponents of progress have unreasonably construed the election returns of last November as a blow at radicalism. Proceeding on that theory, plutocratic tools in the State legislature are deliberately trying to turn back the tide of progress. They are planning to undo what has been accomplished in the way of municipal ownership, to render useless the Initiative and Referendum law of the State and in other ways to place the people completely at the mercy of predatory interests. They confidently expected to elect on March 2 a complete reactionary city council in Seattle, but there they received their jolt. The city overwhelmingly chose a radical body in which the influence of men like Oliver T. Erickson will predominate. Seattle thus serves notice on the reactionaries of the State government of the great risks they are taking of committing political suicide. The warning may not be heeded. Reactionary legislators are not altogether their own masters, but frequently feel that they must obey orders from others than the voters, who have entrusted them with power. But their very efforts to continue blockading progress will only serve to further arouse public sentiment and to give greater force to the progressive movement.

S. D.



Railroad Regulation.

It is much to be regretted that our supervision and control of railroads has been weighted so much with politics, and leavened so little by understanding. Upon the one hand, railroads have secured unfair laws and court decisions by the use of favors and the influences that prevail in an unmoral state; and, on the other, politicians have used the anti-corporation sentiment to win favor of the people, until the actual relations of

the roads to the public are upon a wholly false basis. A belief on the part of the public that it was entitled to cheaper fares, resulted in an arbitrary cutting of rates. The roads, which were beginning to reap the inevitable results of their early mismanagement, are appealing now for an increase in rates; and there is a strong likelihood that the increase will be granted on the same irrational basis that sanctioned the reduction. The Interstate Commerce Commission finds that the average cost of carrying a passenger one mile in Illinois is 1.906 cents. The Illinois Railroad and Warehouse Commission finds that the railroads receive on an average of 1.326 cents for carrying one passenger one mile. And the roads ask permission to advance the rate a half cent per mile, in order to cover the deficit.



The surface indications favor the roads; but it is a question if this is not another case of two arguments that do not meet. In computing the cost of passenger carriage no account has been taken of the waste, of the needless duplication of trains on parallel roads, of the widely advertised de luxe trains that are run at enormous expense for small incomes, and of the multitudes of people who still travel on passes. The amount of free transportation granted under the provision that covers "employes and families" is sufficient to deprive the roads of a considerable revenue. None of these items has been given proper attention. The roads persist in doing business in a wrong way, the people ask for reasonable rates, and the Commission—unable, or unwilling, to enforce intelligent conduct of the business—is upon the point of compelling the public to pay for the mismanagement of the roads by adding the half cent to the fare. Thus is the country driven toward government ownership of railroads.

S. C.



The Plight of Chicago.

From present appearances either Robert Sweitzer or William Hale Thompson will be the next mayor of Chicago. Consequently that political party will be most fortunate which escapes responsibility for the acts of the next city administration. There may be a possibility that the successful candidate will act contrary to what his record indicates, and if so that will materially change the situation. But prospects for that are certainly not bright and consequently Democrats who wish to protect their party from the necessity of apologizing to the voters for the next four years, or who take pleasure in embarrassing the Repub-

lican party, will vote for the Republican nominee. Republicans equally concerned for the good of their party and not without malice towards the Democratic party will do what they can to help elect the Democratic nominee. Citizens not influenced by such considerations and with the good of the city at heart have only the opportunity to cast a protest vote for one of the minor candidates, or to keep away from the polls.

S. D.



An Endorsement of Doubtful Value.

Mayor Mitchel of New York City has announced himself as an advocate of woman suffrage. But prudent suffragists will not lay much stress on that. Mayor Mitchel is not to be depended on. He has made this clear by his action on reducing taxes on buildings. Before election he promised not to interfere with a referendum on reducing taxes on building, but since election he has acted in accord with other members of the Board of Estimate in opposition to such a referendum. So, though he might speak in favor of woman suffrage while he occupies no position in which he can help or hinder the movement, too much confidence must not be placed in his declaration.

S. D.



Judge Read's Responsibility.

In defense of Judge Read's decision against the legality of the Houston plan of taxation, a valued correspondent holds that had the Judge done otherwise he would have assumed legislative powers. It does not seem that this would necessarily have been the case. The people of Houston had assumed the right to legislate on a matter that concerned them alone. The extent to which public opinion in Houston favored this action was shown in the three to one vote cast for Pastoriza's renomination. Judge Read had but to keep hands off. But he chose instead to interfere. Our correspondent declares that the remedy is to change the law, "for law follows public opinion very closely." That Houston's opinion favors a change in the law is evident enough. But law has not followed it. Houston has not the legal authority to manage its own affairs, so public opinion can only prevail there through other than legal means. Judge Read has acted so as to interfere with means adopted by the citizens to put into force their will regarding their own affairs. Texas ought to grant the cities home rule, but so far it has not done so, and no one can guarantee that it will. Houston was making the best of a bad situation when Judge Read compelled its government to act contrary to the popular will.

He could have avoided this by telling the complainants that their remedy was to change public opinion in Houston and that the people would then elect a different Land and Tax Commissioner than Pastoriza. But he chose instead to force on the people a measure that they do not want.

S. D.



Up to Their Old Tricks.

In order to expedite the amending of the Illinois constitution, advocates of the Initiative and Referendum are not pressing that measure this year. Instead, most of them are co-operating with the movement to amend the amending clause, so as to permit submission of more than one amendment at a time, and are also trying to get a constitutional convention. The submission of any amendment has hitherto been blocked by the efforts of such organizations as the Civic Federation to submit an absurdly inadequate tax reform amendment, although the Initiative and Referendum was clearly entitled to the right of way. But rather than block all reform by continuation of the fight the I. and R. workers have, for the most part, consented to the plan that will facilitate amendment. The path to reform will be none too easy at that. A proposed amendment must receive a majority of all votes cast for State officials at the same election. The same applies to a proposition for a constitutional convention. Consequently ignorant or indifferent voters may defeat either or both propositions in spite of a majority of votes cast in their favor. It is therefore advisable to submit both in the hope that at least one will carry.



Adoption of a proper amendment to the amending clause will make it possible for the next Legislature to submit all amendments for which there is a reasonable demand. Authorization of a constitutional convention may or may not have results. Illinois may not be as fortunate as Ohio in getting a convention in which there shall prevail the influence of men like Bigelow, Crosser, Doty and others of the same kind. The new constitution submitted may not be worthy of adoption and may fail. It is imperative, therefore, that in addition to the constitutional convention the amending clause amendment should be submitted. But, with the apparent purpose of preventing this the same interests which backed the Civic Federation's fight, are again at work to submit their tax amendment which, even if adopted, will only allow a few minor reforms. It looks as though the only reform in

which these people are interested is what will enable them to get rid of some evils which affect themselves. They have no apparent interest in the general welfare. It even looks as though they would block an amending clause amendment in the hope that the constitutional convention, if authorized and called, can be managed so as to prevent any radical change, and thus leave things as they are. "For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," the plutocratic pseudo-reformer is peculiar.

S. D.



Samuel Bowles.

The death of Samuel Bowles, owner and editor of the Springfield Republican, marks the close of a career that was in every way a credit to his profession and to his country. Living in one of the smaller inland cities, and entering the business at a time when partizan passion from the Civil War was still at flood tide, Mr. Bowles was able to lay a course that won for his paper a national recognition. Had the average reader throughout the country during the past forty years been asked what paper he considered the fairest on political questions, the answer undoubtedly would have been: The Springfield Republican. Mr. Bowles, whose death occurred on the 13th, inherited the paper in 1878 from his father, who had it from his father in 1844, who had it from his father, who had established it in 1824. Yet, in spite of its natural antecedents and its local environment, the paper has stood for all that is highest and best in newspaperdom. It gave to the word "independent," which too often is either a sham or a negative virtue, a positive, constructive meaning that has redeemed it from the colorless policy of weaklings and hypocrites. The Springfield Republican always had opinions, and it fearlessly expressed them; yet so sane and just were they that friend and foe came to look upon it as the fairest of critics; and its opinions on national and international matters were quoted oftener perhaps than those of any other paper. Samuel Bowles rendered his fellows a double service, in that during all these years he has given them wholesome advice and fearless criticism, and he has made it easier for other editors to follow in his steps.

S. C.



The great agency of slavery everywhere is war. War is necessarily the enslaver—even war for a just cause. You cannot organize men into an army even to fight for freedom without endangering that personal liberty. War has always been the enslaver.—Henry George in address at Sydney, Australia, 1890.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

A MISSIONARY TO KANSAS LEGISLATORS.

Topeka, Kansas, February 26.

The legislature is sitting, but I have not known as much really about their proceedings as usual; I have grouped their efforts, as I have read my paper, as protective, charitable, prohibitive and entirely vicious; then I have returned to my own dreams. But on Wednesday it was different; I noted at breakfast that the House had a bill up before Committee of the Whole which was to free real estate mortgages from being taxed, I therefore went to Representative hall as soon as I could get other things done.

When I arrived a member was in charge of a bill from the Senate, to free mortgages from taxation, and instead to charge ten cents per hundred dollars for registration. This Member of the House was just offering an amendment to change the ten cents into twenty; to support his amendment he was reciting the amount which Kansas had got from taxing mortgages in 1914, and showing that ten cents would not replace this amount, even if mortgages which had dodged being taxed were to come in. His remarks informed me of two things; that the bill I had come to hear about, the bill to free mortgages entirely from taxation, had been defeated. Secondly, that during its discussion there had been some very lucid expositions as to the certainty of tax dodging, and that the borrower paid the tax.

The member in charge of the bill kept saying the very same old things about economy, the rich money loaner, the unfairness of not protecting Kansas money as against foreign money, which now came to Kansas and was not taxed while Kansas citizens' money in mortgages was taxed, and all the arguments I had attributed to this legislature while reading my paper.

The next man who got the floor was an ordinary individual to look at and to listen to in his preamble; but in three minutes he had me sitting up, awake from head to foot. Before the bill to free mortgages from taxation had been defeated, this member reminded the House that it had not been disputed that those mortgages which did not dodge the tax had been able to make the borrower pay the tax in most cases. He further reminded the House that it had not been refuted that the only reason that money on real estate had not charged an even higher rate, was because money from the foreign insurance companies was not taxed and so had not to collect the tax from the borrower. Did that House for an instant think that the borrower would not in most cases pay the fee? Did they think for an instant that to place this fee on mortgages would increase the volume of money for the use of Kansas producers? He opposed this fee, though as the bill otherwise ceased taxing mortgages he was forced to say that it was as much better than the existing conditions as to be in a frying pan is better than being in the fire. He opposed it for the following reasons:

First, his constituents needed capital, and as their servant it was his duty to make the road for that

capital to his county just as free and easy as he could. The fee was so much impediment, for if entirely untaxed, the money for real estate loans would come to Kansas, and stay in Kansas more certainly, and compete more freely. The fee was that much of a stone in the road between his constituents and a competing volume of money and therefore a competitive rate of interest for them to pay.

Secondly, he could not think it advisable that Kansas should draw revenue from a source of wealth which did not exist in fact for taxation. A concrete example would show that to tax or charge a revenue fee on mortgages was to draw revenue from wealth that did not exist. A has \$2,000 in the savings bank, and if he does not dodge it pays taxes. B needs money to make his farm, the full value of which is taxed, more profitable. A lends B his \$2,000 to get more income from it. B takes the money and invests it in live stock or improvements. B is assessed the full value of his farm, the security for the loan, and then on \$2,000 of live stock or improvements. Supposing B's farm to be valued at \$4,000, he pays on that sum plus \$2,000, or upon \$6,000. Before A loaned B the money A paid on \$2,000, and B on \$4,000—\$6,000 in all. The bill as amended would result in Kansas drawing \$2.00 per thousand dollars on something which did not exist; on a two thousand dollars which was nothing but imagination and prejudice. This was not conducive to prosperity in Kansas, for the basis of prosperity is true fact; did any gentleman call the taxing of something non-existing a true fact? He would yield the floor to hear the proof.

Thirdly, he had noted the agitation over losing a source of revenue while taxes and appropriations were yearly soaring higher. Had Kansas no other source of real fact-revenue to replace this source of dream taxing? In his county there was one which would yield the revenue with ease. Much had been said in this session about land speculation; what was wrong with replacing the revenue lost to Kansas by entirely ceasing to tax mortgages, and by taxing the speculators in land, through a land value tax. He was sure of one thing; that to be intelligently true to the interests of his constituents, who being largely Republican, had sent him, a Democrat, to this House, he could not vote for any charge or tax on real estate mortgages, until this source, speculating in land, had been tapped. He confidently assured his brother Members, that when this source was tapped there would be no need of taxing or charging mortgages in any form.

I at once got next to this Member. I found that his name was Hopper; his residence in Ness City, Ness County; that he had presented a bill to assess all real estate at its true value, without reference to the improvements in or upon it; and to repeal the sections of the existing law, which raised the value by adding the value of improvements to the value of the land. I also found that he had got the bill through the Committee on Assessment and Taxation, and on to the floor of the House; that it had there been discussed and had produced some interest among the Members before it was defeated. Further I found that Mr. Hopper was a Democrat, elected in a county casting about 1,600 votes, usually 300 Republican, by a majority of about 500; that Mr. Hopper, while he

thought that he might not return, intended to express the simple views he had whenever he had the chance, and just as long as he had it; that he would be elected again if he could, and would always be for abolishing betting in land values by taxing those values, and not improvement values, until it became the Kansas Plan of Taxation.

As I left I saw Daniel Kiefer and Mrs. Fels, and the striking feeling and sincerity of their plea that we of the West get really organized. I had never heard of Ness County, nor of Mr. Hopper before to count; and here was a man and a majority of citizens in Kansas who probably believe that the cure for our troubles is more equality of opportunity rather than protecting, making laws to make people do things, and trying to punish the rich. I felt ashamed.

GEORGE HUGHES.

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, March 16, 1915.

Mexico.

Affairs are less tense in Mexico. General Obregon withdrew from Mexico City on the 9th, and the Zapata forces took possession of the city. During their entrance some Zapata soldiers attacked and killed John B. McManus, an American. Mr. McManus' home had been attacked at the time of the evacuation of the city by the Zapata forces, and he shot three of the soldiers. When the troops returned McManus placed the American flag over his door, and the Brazilian minister sealed the door with the seal of Brazil. [See current volume, page 261.]

General Carranza, in reply to President Wilson's protest, while protesting that the complaints against General Obregon's conduct were baseless, promised to protect the lives and property of foreigners in the territory under his jurisdiction. His conciliatory reply to Spain regarding the expulsion of the Spanish Minister, Jose Caro, has mollified that country. He has also raised the blockade of the port of Progreso, Yucatan. Ninety per cent of the Sisal hemp used in making binding twine in the United States comes from that port, and when General Carranza proclaimed a paper blockade, that he had not the ships to enforce, the Washington government refused to recognize it. There is a report that Yucatan has declared its independence.

The Minister of Brazil sends word from Mexico City that conditions there are much improved. Ismael Palatox, minister of foreign affairs under

the Convention government, is in the city trying to set in motion the wheels of government. It is expected that reparation will be made for the killing of Mr. McManus. Distress is reported from Manzanillo, on the Pacific coast. The American cruiser Cleveland is there to protect foreign interests. Quiet and order are said to prevail in the territory under General Villa. No military operations of moment have occurred during the week.



China and Japan.

Negotiations over the points in dispute between the two governments continue at Peking. The knowledge that 30,000 Japanese troops are on the way to China to re-enforce the 30,000 already there is expected to break the diplomatic deadlock, and secure a favorable result for Japan. The new troops are to be distributed in Manchuria, Shantung, Tien-Tsin and Hankow. The movement was announced as the periodical shifting of troops, but it is now understood that the old garrisons will remain until the negotiations have been concluded. England, France and Russia are reported to have given Japan a free hand. The Washington administration stands for the integrity of China and the open door, both of which Japan promises. [See current volume, page 261.]



China's customs revenue, according to United States Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, decreased from \$32,603,646 in 1913 to \$26,612,388 in 1914. The following estimate of the revenue for 1915 is made by the Department of Finance:

Land tax, \$33,696,000; salt tax, \$32,832,000; customs tariffs, \$26,784,000; title deeds, \$5,616,000; house tax, \$2,592,000; consumption tax, \$6,480,000; tobacco and spirit tax, \$6,480,000; mining tax, \$864,000; business tax, \$4,320,000; income tax, \$2,160,000; inheritance tax, \$864,000; license of sale of weights and measures, \$8,640,000; marriage certificates tax, \$1,296,000; coinage revenue, \$4,320,000; Government business revenue, \$8,640,000. Total (approximately), \$145,584,000.



The European War.

Conflicting reports from the eastern field leave the public in doubt as to the net result of the week's struggle between Russia and Germany. Some critics profess to see a slackening in the German aggressiveness as the later reserves replace the veterans; but as yet there is no conclusive evidence. Both Russia and Austria claim advances in Galicia and the Carpathians. The weather has been too severe to permit of extended operations. In the West the French and English claim small advances in the entrenched line, but nothing of a decisive character. It is reported

that large numbers of the new British army are now going to the front, preparatory to the opening of the spring campaign. [See current volume, page 262.]



The fleet of the Allies continues its bombardment of the fortifications of the Dardanelles and Smyrna. It is expected that Smyrna will yield within a few days; but the progress in the Dardanelles is slow. The prediction is hazarded by the British Admiral Carden, in command, that the fleet should clear the straits by Easter. Several vessels have been struck by shells from the forts, but no serious damage has been done. The mine sweepers have been successful in clearing the way before the advancing war ships.



Much importance is attached to the report that the Austrian government has denied the concessions of territory to Italy, that Germany has urged in order to secure that country's neutrality. This is likely to fan the smoldering war embers into flame, and bring Italy into the conflict at an early day. The popular sentiment in Italy is settling into a determination to have the Italian provinces of Austria. Had these been voluntarily ceded by Austria, the neutrality of the Latin kingdom might have been continued; but since that has been refused it is supposed that Italy waits only for an opportune time to enter the arena. Turkey has offered Adrianople to Bulgaria, and the Aegean Islands to Greece to secure the neutrality of those countries; but neither offer has been accepted, and the war sentiment in both countries continues to grow. Roumania awaits either the success of the Russians or of the Allied fleet before venturing.



The comparative harmlessness of the German submarine blockade, announced by the British admiralty last week, was almost immediately followed by the torpedoing of a number of ships in British waters, including the auxiliary cruiser Bayano, with the loss of 194 men. The German cruiser Dresden, the only one to escape of five German vessels at the battle off the Falkland Islands, December 8, was discovered by three British cruisers near Juan Fernandez Island off the coast of Chile on the 14th. The Dresden, which was a sister ship of the famous Emden, was outranked by the British cruisers, and struck her flag five minutes after the opening of the battle. The ship was on fire, and sank shortly after the men had been taken off by the British. All the crew was saved, though several members were badly wounded. The British ships were not hit at all, according to reports. The cruiser Karlsruhe and the auxiliary cruiser Kronprinz

Wilhelm are now the only German war vessels known to be on the high seas.



On the 10th the German auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich, which had escaped from Tsing-tao when the Japanese invested that place, put into Newport News for repairs. Particular interest attaches to the incident because of the fact that this cruiser sank the American sailing vessel William P. Frye, January 27, in the South Atlantic. The American vessel was loaded with wheat and bound from Seattle to Queenstown. The American government is making an investigation to determine the responsibility. The German government promises redress if found to be at fault. The German cruiser will be obliged to put to sea or intern as soon as her repairs have been made. British cruisers off Hampton Roads await the coming of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich.



The answer of the British government to the more effective submarine blockade is the issuance of an order in council designed to stop the movement of all goods to or from Germany. This will not be accomplished by a blockade of specific ports, but by the seizure of merchantmen bound to or from Germany, or bound to or from neutral ports with German goods on board. This act of warfare is excused by the British government on the ground that it is necessary to meet the German acts of sinking merchant vessels and killing neutral passengers and crews. All vessels suspected by the British on the high seas will be searched, and if found with goods going directly or indirectly to Germany, or coming directly or indirectly from that country, will be taken into a British port and delivered to a prize court. Goods other than contraband will be sold, and the money held by the prize court until the conclusion of peace, unless ordered to be paid to the owner sooner by the British government. The whole order is drawn with the design of stopping all German trade by sea.



Simultaneously with the order in council came the flat refusal of the British government to consider the German offer, presented by the American government, to withdraw the submarine blockade on condition that the British government permit food and certain raw materials to enter Germany. Great Britain refused to consider the offer presented by the United States. First, because Germany could not be relied upon to keep an agreement; second, because the submarine blockade was regarded as illegal and ineffective; and third, because the United States could not guarantee that the Berlin government after it had received an ample supply of food-stuffs would not re-establish the war zone.

As a result of the German and British war measures against neutral commerce the United States war risk insurance bureau has announced that it will deny insurance to vessels and cargoes to British ports, and to ports south of Christiana and north of Bordeaux, to ports of the Adriatic, Black Sea, Bosphorus and to the port of Smyrna, also to German and Turkish possessions. It is expected that the American government will make a protest against this treatment accorded neutrals. The international law abrogated by Germany and Great Britain covers the following points:

(a) The neutral flag covers enemy's goods with the exception of contraband of war.

(b) Neutral goods, with the exception of contraband of war, are not liable to capture under enemy's flag.

(c) Blockades in order to be binding must be effective; that is to say, maintained by forces sufficient really to prevent access to the coast of the enemy.

(d) Trade of neutrals with belligerents in articles not contraband is absolutely free, unless interrupted by blockade.

(e) Seizure and condemnation of neutral ships on a voyage subsequent to that on which they successfully ran the "paper blockade" of the allies is not permissible.



National Voters' League.

The report on the recent congress by the National Voters' League, of which Lynn Haines is secretary and has headquarters at 831 Woodward building, Washington, exposes some abuses that prevailed. It shows that less than a dozen men in the House have "almost absolute obstructive power," concerning which it says:

On February 16, 1915, the House "passed" a most important measure, all in one day, without even the formality of having it introduced regularly into that body.

At about nine o'clock the previous evening a new ship purchase bill was presented to the Democratic caucus of the House. There was a lot of "stand by the organization," of "be regular or you will return to another sixteen years of wandering in the wilderness, without political pie and pork," talk. Then this unofficial closed caucus "passed" the measure.

The following morning the members of the Committee on Rules were hurriedly assembled. The result was a special gag rule of almost unprecedented scope. This gag rule not only provided that the measure should have immediate "consideration" by the House, with six hours of "debate," but also virtually introduced the measure and prescribed the exact and only form in which it should "pass."

At eleven o'clock the same morning the Rules Committee journeyed to the House with this most extraordinary gag rule, and before the adjournment of that day's session the farce had been completed by the "passage" of the measure.

The league suggests as a remedy the following:

If it be possible, before the House convenes, adequately to educate new members and the public as

to the meaning of parliamentary reform, there should be an attempt, on the opening day, to adopt entirely new rules. But whether or not complete revision of the rules is undertaken then, there must be provided a workable method of securing parliamentary changes. It is unthinkable that the Committee on Rules should have absolute obstructive powers in that direction. This indefensible situation could be remedied by a simple rule requiring that every proposal for changes in the rules should, within a reasonable time, be reported to the House for its decision.

It further recommends a rearrangement of committees so as to abolish the useless committees used by the leaders "as burial places for those members of the party who are independent," selection by each committee of its own chairman and its own employes, abolition of executive sessions of committees, public records of all committee proceedings and a budget system. [See current volume, page 157.]



Unworkable I. and R. Enabling Act in Utah.

An Initiative and Referendum enabling act was passed finally by the State Senate of Utah on March 11. It had already passed the House. It now needs but the signature of the Governor. A constitutional amendment providing for the Initiative and Referendum applied to statute laws was adopted in Utah in 1900. It was not self-executing and left most of its details to the Legislature. For nearly 15 years the Legislature has refused to adopt an enabling act. The bill passed makes necessary to submit a measure the signatures of twelve per cent of the voters of the State. A further requirement is that in each of a majority of counties twelve per cent must sign. Another peculiarity of the act is that petitions to be valid must not be circulated, but must be deposited for signing at offices of notaries public. [See vol. x, p. 222; vol. xiv, p. 39.]



Cincinnati Franchise Grab Defeated.

A bitter campaign in Cincinnati came to an end on March 9 on the question of renewing for 25 years the franchise of the Cincinnati, Newport and Covington street railway line. This company controls all the lines between Cincinnati's business centers and extreme outlying parts of neighboring cities across the Ohio. After the franchise ordinance had been endorsed by the council and mayor in the face of protests, the People's Power League began a referendum movement to have the matter submitted at the regular election in November. Confident of controlling the election, the corporation forestalled the league by itself securing signatures to a 20 per cent petition for a special election. The result showed that the corporation had miscalculated. The election figures were 23,591 for the franchise

and 32,494 against, an adverse majority of 8,903. It is felt that this will affect the readjustment of all street railway fares in the city, which must be made in 1916. [See current volume, page 101.]



Municipal Ownership Endorsed in Seattle.

Seattle elected on March 2 candidates for councilmen in favor of municipal ownership. The ticket was headed by T. H. Bolton. [See current volume, page 206.]



Plot Against Lindsey Fails.

Representative Howland, who introduced the bill in the Colorado Legislature to oust Judge Ben Lindsey, confessed on March 12 to having received \$15 to pay for shadowing Lindsey. The confession followed the arrest of Howland on a charge of bribery. The Legislature promptly expelled him. Judge Lindsey has asked for warrants for the arrest for conspiracy to defame, of the leaders in the fight against him. Governor Carlson on March 16 urged a thorough investigation. [See current volume, page 260.]



Mothers' Pension Movement.

The mothers' pension law, advocated by Judge Henry Neil, passed the lower house of the Tennessee legislature of March 11 by unanimous vote. If passed by the Senate, Tennessee will be the first of the Southern States to adopt the mothers' pension system. Twenty-two Northern States have already adopted this plan and bills are pending in New York and Indiana. [See current volume, page 238.]



A convention to promote the idea that the public school teachers administer mothers' pensions will be held in San Francisco at the exposition on July 20, 21 and 22. Otto McFeeley, Oak Park, Illinois, is chairman of committee of arrangements. [See current volume, page 263.]



The Sanger Case.

A jury trial was denied William Sanger, arrested by Anthony Comstock for yielding to the urgent pleading of a spy sent by him to get a copy of a pamphlet entitled, "Family Limitation," by Margaret Sanger, wife of the prisoner. Judge Swann of the Court of General Sessions of New York City has refused to allow the accused a trial by jury. An appeal for aid in Sanger's behalf has been issued by the Free Speech League, of which Leonard Abbott is president and Theodore Schroeder is attorney. The appeal in part says:

America is now almost the only civilized country in which it is "against the law" to discuss the most vital and important sex questions. For thirty-seven

years "The Malthusian" has been disseminating in England, without hindrance from the Government, information regarding the prevention of conception. In France a number of Malthusian journals are published, and limitation of offspring has widespread and influential support. Malthusian Leagues have been organized in Spain, Italy, Germany, South America and even in Africa.

This case involves much more than Mr. Sanger and his wife. It involves personal liberty and a free press. If Mr. Sanger wins, the importance of the victory, for the whole people, cannot be over-estimated. The Free Speech League is backing him. Gilbert E. Roe is acting as his attorney.

A FUND OF AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS IS NEEDED FOR LEGAL EXPENSES IN THIS STRUGGLE. More is needed for a campaign of publicity outside of the courts. This is your fight, too. The time to fight is now. You are asked to send as much as you can, and as soon as possible to the President of the Free Speech League, Leonard D. Abbott, 241 East 201st street, New York City.

[See current volume, page 235.]



Woman Suffrage News.

The Pennsylvania State Senate passed on March 15 by a vote of 37 to 11 the resolution to submit a woman suffrage amendment. Having been already adopted by the House and by the legislature of 1913, it now goes to a popular vote in November. Proposed suffrage amendments were defeated in both houses of the Delaware legislature on March 9. A bill for municipal suffrage was defeated in the Nebraska legislature on March 10. Mayor Mitchel of New York in an address on March 11 endorsed the pending suffrage amendment in that State. [See current volume, page 263.]



Tannenbaum Released.

Frank Tannenbaum was released from Blackwell's Island on March 10. He had served a year's sentence, having been arrested in March, 1914, for asking shelter along with 189 other unemployed on a cold night of the priest of St. Alphonsus church. Besides the jail sentence he was fined \$500. A collection to pay this for him was taken up and quickly raised, the contributions ranging from one cent to one dollar. Judge Wadhams, who had sentenced him, then agreed to remit the fine. The money for this will be devoted to other purposes. Tannenbaum was met on his release by a large number, composed of persons from all walks of life, who regard his treatment as unjust and was given an ovation. [See vol. xvii, p. 277.]



Texas Rent Restriction Law Passed.

The Texas legislature adopted finally on March 12 the bill favored by Governor Ferguson regu-

lating farm rents. It provides that where land is rented on shares the tenant shall receive two-thirds of the grain and three-fourths of the cotton which he grows, the remainder of the crop going to the landlord. Where the land is farmed on the money-rent plan, the landlord is prohibited from receiving any sum in excess of the value of the crop as based on the share division which the law provides. [See current volume, page 205.]



Vacant Lot Cultivation.

Mrs. Mary Fels, widow of Joseph Fels, has sent the following letter to every clergyman in Philadelphia:

I want to call your attention to a way of helping unemployment that is easily and immediately practicable, and one which helps a man to help himself. It is by the use of unused land. Our cities are full of vacant lots, thousands upon thousands of them; in New York they run into a million. In both the cities where he lived, Joseph Fels formed vacant lots cultivation societies, and thus in Philadelphia and London (and elsewhere, others following his example), active work of this excellent kind is in progress.

Will not you use your influence to further this work? Will you not speak of it, and ask your hearers to lend such unused land as they have, and also to give money for the necessary tools, seeds, etc., to the Philadelphia Association for Vacant Lot Cultivation? (No. 1122 Land Title Building.)

Should not, at the same time, everyone be urged to use all means in their power to get the Assessment Act amended, so that no man will find his taxes growing heavier because he has made improvements, or otherwise toiled to add to the prosperity of the country?



Principally through an agitation conducted in the columns of the Chicago Herald by William L. Chenery, the West Park Board of Chicago has set aside 6,000 square feet of land for cultivation by the unemployed and an impetus has been given the movement for vacant lot cultivation.



Tax Reform News.

The city of Houston, Texas, will appeal from the decision of Judge Read which ordered Tax Commissioner Pastoriza to assess improvements on the same basis as land values. Preparations are being made to assess all property at 100 per cent valuation. A letter to all taxpayers has been sent by Mr. Pastoriza, of which the following is a part:

There is now pending a suit which was brought by Jos. F. Meyer, J. J. Settegast, et al., against the City of Houston, and its taxing officers, to restrain them from assessing property for the year 1915 in accordance with the plan followed during the last three years. They are asking that all classes of property not exempt from taxation by law shall be taxed equally and uniformly. This includes personal

property of every class, some of which has heretofore largely escaped taxation. . . .

In order, therefore, that the city may be sure of having revenues for the coming year, in the event said taxpayers shall be successful in their suit, it is necessary that the taxing officers take steps at once to gather information as to the property whose omission from the tax rolls is complained of by said taxpayers. With this end in view, we would ask you to give us a list of the property which you had on hand on January 1, 1915, of the following classes:

1. Money on hand and in banks.
2. Stocks and bonds, whether the corporations were domestic or foreign.
3. Mortgages and vendor's liens, whether on property in Harris County or elsewhere, and whether recorded or not.
4. Notes, whether secured or unsecured.
5. Credits, including accounts receivable and interest which had accrued to January 1, 1915.
6. Household furniture, in excess of \$250 in value.

[See current volume, page 260.]

Mayor Ben Campbell of Houston has addressed every member of the Texas legislature as follows:

I wish you would carefully consider House Joint Resolution No. 32, being a constitutional amendment, which provides for Home Rule in Taxation.

I believe that this matter should be submitted to a vote of the people. It is my opinion that each city in Texas should have the right to decide for itself from what classes of taxable property it will raise its revenue.

What is known as the Houston Plan of Taxation has been attacked by some of the citizens of Houston as being unconstitutional, and I believe that a majority of the people would like to have this constitutional question settled. Each city in Texas should have the right to decide for itself whether it will exempt in whole or in part any class of property from taxation. If a city desires to collect its revenue from all classes of property on the same basis, it should have the right to do so, and if a majority of the people of any city desire to exempt in whole or in part certain classes of property from City Tax, it should have the right to do so; and unless the matter is settled by a constitutional amendment, there will always be doubt and probably litigation growing out of the manner of assessing and collecting taxes by the various cities in Texas.

I understand Galveston, Beaumont, Waco, San Antonio and Corpus Christi are collecting the revenue for their respective cities on a basis very similar to what is known as the Houston Plan of Taxation, and I am quite sure that the people would like to have the matter settled by a vote of the people.

Every candidate for alderman at the approaching city election in Chicago has received the following letter from the Chicago Singletax Club:

The rapid growth of population and the concentration of business in the down-town district have produced such a congestion that the building of a subway is seriously considered.

This club would like to know which of the following methods you would favor for financing a subway in case one is to be built and you are elected Alderman:

1. By means of the traction fund with such additional bond issues as may be necessary.
2. By means of special assessments levied upon the property benefited.

The New York City Club estimated that the New York subway added to the value of adjacent land \$80,500,000 in excess of ordinary growth. This was \$37,500,000 more than the cost of its construction.

We now pave streets, build sewers and sidewalks and assess the cost thereof against the property in proportion to the benefits received. Should not the cost for the building of the subway be raised by the application of the same method, and if not, why not?

Your reply is awaited with keen interest.

Benjamin C. Marsh as secretary of the New York City Lower Rents Society addressed an open letter to Mayor Mitchel, which appeared in the New York Globe and The Tenants' Weekly, as follows:

As a candidate, you stated you would do nothing to interfere with a local referendum on reducing taxes on buildings here. After your election, you repudiated that solemn pledge; you appointed a Committee on Taxation, two-thirds of the membership being land speculators and their agents, to act as a buffer between you and the rent payers.

Your Committee, with your approval, recommends a tax upon salaries and the increasing of rents by one-fifth of that now being paid.

You have arranged secret conclaves with representatives of "special privilege"—the Chamber of Commerce, the Merchants' Association, the City Club, and the Allied Real Estate Interests—to put the cost of government upon the poor of this city.

You were anxious to have the people trust you with the reins of government. Why don't you trust the people now?

Are you the Mayor of all the people or do you represent the Astors, Lorillards, Rhinelanders, Wendels, etc.? Do you propose to tax the poor more?

[See current volume, page 158.]

State Senator Clarence Davis of Oklahoma has introduced a resolution to submit a singletax amendment to the Constitution, as follows:

"Be it resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein:

"That the following amendment to the constitution of the State of Oklahoma is hereby proposed by the legislature to the voters for their approval or rejection in accordance with the constitution and laws of this State at an election to be held in the year 1916. Said proposed amendment, in the event the people should adopt the same, shall be known as section 13 (a) article 10 of the constitution, and is in words and figures as follows to-wit:

Section 13 (a), article 10 of the Constitution:

"The taxable value of real property shall be the

value of the property with the improvements thereon, less the value of the improvements, except as to such classes or kinds of improvements as may otherwise be provided by law.

"The legislature shall have authority to fix, define, classify and adopt all needful rules and regulations necessary to determine the value of real property with the improvements thereon, the value of such improvements and the unimproved value of such property, and the legislature shall graduate the change of taxable values from improved values of real property to unimproved values of such property over a period of time not exceeding four years."

A protest already has echoed through the legislative hall, one extensive land owner exclaiming, "Why, this measure means that I will have to pay higher taxes and that the man who owns a barn and a house will not be compelled to pay taxes on his improvements."

"Yes," replied Senator Davis, when he heard of the protest, "this bill certainly is aimed at the great landlords of Oklahoma. It will force them to improve their farm lands and their city lots, or offer the unimproved property for sale at market values to others who stand ready to make improvements which they sincerely hope will not be taxed." [See current volume, page 100.]



Call for Suggestions.

The New York State Singletax League, 68 William street, New York City, is preparing to have stencils made for use in suburban and country districts. It requires a line of not more than ten words, preferably less, suited for this purpose. The league desires suggestions of the wording to be used and asks that all who are interested favor it with them.

NEWS NOTES

—Laura C. Spelman Rockefeller, wife of John D. Rockefeller, Sr., died on March 12 at Pocantico Hills, New York. She was born September 9, 1839.

—The Bowers bill to abolish capital punishment passed the lower house of the Tennessee legislature on March 5 by a vote of 51 to 44. [See current volume, page 86.]

—A State-wide prohibition amendment passed the Vermont Senate on March 11. It had already passed the House. If approved by the Governor it will go to a popular vote in March, 1916.

—The United States Commission on Industrial Relations has set March 16 as the date for beginning at Dallas, Texas, its investigation of the land question. [See current volume, page 155.]

—The Illinois State Senate on March 11 passed a resolution to submit to the voters the question of calling a constitutional convention. If adopted by the House it will be voted on in November.

—The French Government, by a decree of March 4, has suspended until further notice the import duties

on rails and fishplates intended for the repair of lines of communication important for the national defense.

—The conviction on February 17, 1913, for violation of the anti-trust law of John H. Patterson and other officials of the National Cash Register Company, was set aside on March 13 by the United States Court of Appeals.

—Anton Lang, who played the role of Christus in the Passion Play at Oberammergau, and who is noted for his physical resemblance to the traditional likeness of Jesus, is reported to have joined the German army in the Vosges.

—A rural credit bill passed the lower house of the Missouri Legislature on March 11. It now goes to the Senate. It provides for a land bank to make ten and twenty-year loans to farmers at five per cent. [See current volume, page 232.]

—The number of deaths from the earthquake in Italy, according to an official parliamentary report, amounted to 29,978, not including persons who afterward died of injuries and sickness caused by the disaster. [See current volume, page 82.]

—For commenting sarcastically upon Emperor William's statement that he no longer knew parties, but only Germans, Herr Geithner, a Socialist member of the Saxe-Coburg Diet, and editor of the Gotha Volksblatt, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

—Governor Dunne in a special message to the Illinois legislature on March 10 urged abolition of capital punishment. In the message he presented figures showing that the death penalty had no deterrent effect and that murders occur as frequently in the States where capital punishment prevails as where it does not.

—Allen A. Ryan, son of Thomas F. Ryan, refused on March 12 to answer the questions of a committee of the United States Senate investigating the alleged ship trust lobby. Senator Walsh warned Mr. Ryan that his refusal subjected him to a penalty of fine and imprisonment and he was given until March 16 to answer.

—The National Association for the advancement of colored people is endeavoring to suppress the photo play entitled "The Birth of a Nation." A summons was issued against the owner and producer out of the magistrate's court. The charge is "maintaining a public nuisance on the ground of endangering the safety of the public and offending public decency."

—The number of foreign-built vessels admitted to American registry under the Act of Congress of August 18, 1914, up to February 19, 1915, was 129, with a gross tonnage of 468,509 and a net tonnage of 303,284. Of the 129 vessels 89 had flown the British flag; 5 the Belgian, 23 the German, 1 the Roumanian, 1 the Norwegian, 1 Uruguayan, 5 the Cuban and 4 the Mexican. [See vol. xvii, p. 586.]

—Samuel Gompers was denied permission by Provost Smith of the University of Pennsylvania on March 5 to deliver an advertised address on the University grounds. Six hundred students thereupon arranged for a meeting outside and put up posters so announcing. At Provost Smith's orders these posters

on the University grounds were torn down. Mr. Gompers addressed a large meeting of students, nevertheless.

PRESS OPINIONS

Can Contempt of this Court Be Avoided?

The Milwaukee Leader, March 11.—On its own motion, the Supreme Court of Wisconsin has heard argument to show that it erred in holding that the citizenship amendment to the State Constitution was improperly adopted and void. The court, to hear argument why it should reverse itself, ignored the rules that it has adopted to estop motions for reopening cases. . . . It was of no concern to the justices of the Supreme Court that the Legislature had initiated the citizenship amendment—that both houses of two successive Legislatures had passed it and that the people had approved it. The only thing that the court could see was the manner in which the amendment had been recorded in the legislative journal. Were the i's dotted and the t's crossed? Had any clerk neglected his duties or pen wiper proved faithless to its obligations? The justices were looking for a flaw and they found one. . . . It mattered nothing that the work of the people had been destroyed and their will thwarted. Piffle had risen to its apotheosis. But when the justices found that they had jeopardized the title of two of their members to office and invalidated the increase in the salaries of all the members of the court, they were staggered with the calamitous consequences. . . . What a difference when the justices themselves were hit with their boomerang and hoisted with their own petard? Ah, that was a horse of another color! It was time to reason calmly. Call in the lawyers, reopen the case, search for precedents. Perhaps a mistake had been made, an error in judgment committed. The court has heard the arguments of lawyers. The arguments are quite conclusive that the court, in running amuck among the amendments to the constitution, made an ass out of itself—even a bigger ass than Dogberry's law. It is pondering now how to "save its face" and its salaries.



An Appreciation of Pastoriza.

Houston (Texas) Press, March 5.—When narrow-minded bigots charge Joe Pastoriza with trying to wreck Houston, they know they lie. They know that Pastoriza has in his heart a deeper interest for the men and women who form 95 per cent of this city's population than any other man who lives within its borders. They know that he is honest and just. They pillory him because his life is being devoted to establishing a social equality here that will make the poor as influential as the rich. They would crucify him because he threatens to shake the props out from under the seats of the mighty. They shun him because they fear to face the truth. He reveals it to them naked, sometimes, and they turn away and shudder. They want Houston to grow into another of those citadels of Mammon which stain this fair land. They would see it grow into a Sodom or Gomorrah, rather than to see one man establish

human justice and equality among its people. The Houston Press challenges the traducers of this man to show one single true instance wherein his acts or his words have done aught to harm Houston's name or reputation.



Chicago's Marie Antoinette.

California Outlook (Los Angeles), March 6.—"If they have no bread to eat, why don't they eat cake?" Marie Antoinette is supposed to have airily remarked in those starvation days preceding the bloody time of the French revolution. It was the silly remark of a vain and ignorant queen, and had little to do with the reign of terror that followed within a very few years. Similarly, the foolish remarks of C. H. Canby, president of the Chicago Board of Trade, will in no way tend to produce revolutionary conditions. But they are interesting as being equally as vain and as silly as Marie Antoinette's. Canby is reported as saying: "The poor will not stop eating bread because it is raised in price one cent a loaf, but they will not eat so much of it. They will economize. In a country like the United States, where millions are spent for chewing gum and five-cent cigars, I fail to see how it can be disturbed by a penny rise in the price of foodstuffs."

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

NEUTRALITY.

For The Public.

I am a Teuton, or mayhap a Hun,
A Briton or a Frenchman, Slav or Pole—
Where'er the bloody tides of conflict roll
There are my kin, death-armed with blade and gun;
It matters not for me if lost or won
The battles are—how overwhelmed my soul
With joy or sorrow—I must still control
The racial strains that through my being run.

The vaunting boast and the offending gibe,
And fools that dogmatize, may cause me pain,
Yet in my heart no hatreds must be nursed;
The Nation's welfare and large aim prescribe
A higher duty than contentious vain—
In this big country none are last or first.

CHARLES H. WINKE.



AT THE SIEGE OF ANTWERP.

For The Public.

By Arthur Sweetser, at the Request of William L. Garrison, Jr.

All morning long, the heavy siege guns of the German army before Antwerp had pounded in our ears. Our big war correspondents' automobile with its Union Jack and Belgian flags had carried us all along the fighting front to the south of the city; past thousands of infantry waiting to go into action; past thousands of cavalry, standing ready

at the saddle for a quick dash; past battery after battery of the light Belgian field guns, either wheeling into position or spitting out flame toward an enemy four or five miles away.

It was a scene of utter desolation, of hopeless tragedy, of scores of almost unoccupied villages. Suddenly we bore into a small town on the edge of the River Nethe, barely half a mile from the German positions and almost the next point of capture in their inevitable march. With one move, all of us jumped forward. Why, we asked, were the streets filled with villagers? Why, in this land of tragedy, where smiling had almost been forgotten, did we see all the natives out on their doorsteps, laughing, shouting, radiant with happiness? The scene was almost weird.

We followed the crowd down the main street to the village square. There a huge mob of hatless people were jamming about something of great interest to them. To us, it seemed the eighth wonder of the world, for the nearby Germans, the pounding of the guns, the certainty of capture seemed to have been entirely brushed aside in the childish joy that had come over the populace. In all our trips we had seen nothing like it, and we feverishly worked our way through the jam to get the solution.

Ah, well enough we realized its cause when deep down in the midst of that dense crowd we recognized two heavy English armored motor cars. The great nation across the Channel that had been driven out of Belgium faster than it had come in was now come back. The plucky little people that had been left entirely unaided by their powerful allies to the mercy of a ruthless conqueror now saw in these two machines the return of all the might and power that that nation stood for. Well might they feel that their struggle had not been in vain, that they were to be left no longer to fight an impossible battle.

They were magnificent machines, too—huge cars with armor extending down over the wheels almost flush with the ground, and a devilish looking machine gun mounted in a turret on top. On one of them, with a bronzed, heavily lined face, smiling kindly on the simple people about him, stood a splendid specimen of the English naval reserve officer—a big, powerful man in the neat, natty khaki uniform and clean-cut naval hat. I approached.

"You're an American, you say? Come from Boston?" he inquired. "That's strange, I left New York only a short time ago, after a flying visit to Boston. My name's Josiah Wedgwood. I was over there in the interest of the Singletax movement."

"Yes, it's been hell here. We've been out on the firing line continuously for the last four days, no rest, no relaxation. We can make fifty-five miles an hour in these machines, and when they tear past the German forces and squirt these guns on

them, you might think it was the devil himself let loose. We get rush orders to appear in any part of the field; in fact, we've just left a German column that we caught along the highroad, wriggling about trying to find out what hit it. It's frightfully nervous work; we can only dash up, squirt in a rain of lead and tear off before they know what's got them. It often gives just time enough to hold up a surprise attack till the regular forces get into position.

"We pretty nearly got caught yesterday—ran into a nest of them and only extricated ourselves by the greatest luck. Good fortune has been with us so far—we come and go so quickly they haven't yet got us, but when we get near we're in a perfect rain of lead all the time. The infantry fire is not so bad, for there's pretty good protection for all but the man at the gun; but they'll get us sometime with their smaller field guns. Our only salvation is that we can travel so fast."

"They're nice people, aren't they, these Belgians," he said, as a pretty little village girl came forward with some tea and crackers made especially in their honor. "And they seem so grateful that we're back here again.

"Well, give my friends in the States my best regards when you get back. I don't ever expect to get out of this mess. But we must be off—there's trouble down the road—they've sent for us in a hurry."

And the two big machines rushed madly out of the little town, through a lane of hand-wavings, cheers and smiles. The sadness settled in once more. Heaven knows what happened, either to the machines or the town. Four days later, Antwerp was a German city and the little force of British that had fought so bravely but futilely was fleeing with the remnants of the Belgian army back towards France.



THE OLD SERVANT'S ROOM.

For The Public.

Madam Norton, as people called her, had been ill for weeks, and yet she had continued to rule the incomings, the outgoing, the details small and great of all the household. She was a determined and very capable person, masterful, and as such a maintainer of family dignities and traditions as any Duchess of Wrexhe.

One midnight Madam Norton opened her eyes, feeling suddenly without pain or weakness. She saw that the tired nurse was asleep in a chair, and she rose to reprimand her but forbore because the room seemed so strange, so sad, so dark, in spite of the shaded lamp. She walked past the nurse, noting without surprise that she herself was dressed as if for a journey, and that she went through the door without opening it. She passed over the house, as in the old days, years before,

when there was nothing that her eyes did not see, and few things indeed to which she did not set her own masterful, amending touch.

Madam Norton soon became aware that the house had its bright places and its dark places everywhere. Knowing every inch of it for so many years, she began to recognize the strange fact that human relationships had something to do with all this. It seemed to her that mingled good and evil were about her, and that the whole house throbbled with indescribable emanations of selfishness, of anger, of revolt, of joy, of patience, of sorrow; and following up these faint clews into different rooms, she found that some of the household slept beautifully in the midst of a spiritual glow, while others were wrapped in a gloom and even horror not to be named or told. Yet somewhere in every room she noted threads of light and of loving service for others, and these led her down stairs where those who were the least of all the household chiefly dwelt.

There was a servant of the servants, one Betty, the kitchen helper, an old woman—a distant relative of the Madam—not a well-educated person, not much to look at. Suddenly Madam Norton realized that along each one of Betty's usual pathways there was a soft and clear light; that nothing so exquisite was anywhere else in the house; that this drudge that did the hardest, the most unpleasant things for the entire household was somehow different from all the rest, not merely in degree, but in kind and essence.

She went to Betty's room, and stood looking into the worn, much-wrinkled, old face. It bore the look of one of the angels of story, straight-come from near to the heart of heaven. It had a glorious and yet a most gentle and human translucence. In that moment it was made plain to Madam Norton that a mighty river of spiritual force flowed through the room. She had not dreamed of such things before; she felt that she had no part in this. But the beauty of the sleeping drudge overwhelmed her; she sank on her knees beside the bed and spoke to Betty.

Twice she spoke before she realized that neither the old servant nor anyone else on earth could hear her voice, but she went on: "Did I not play with you, Elizabeth, once when we were children, and my father drove through your village? Ah, how much I have lost, not to have known the real you all these years!"

Then, as she looked, secret thought rose to meet her, and gazing still into the face of the sleeping servant, she who had been the mistress of the house suddenly cried out with deep joy, "Elizabeth," she said, "it is very strange, but I feel that somehow you love me! I do not understand it, but I know that it is so. Goodbye, Elizabeth." And in her sleep Betty smiled, as if she knew.

Slowly, slowly the mistress turned from the little room and went out of the house. She saw

mingled light and shadow in all the houses of the city; she knew that rich and poor, high and low were everywhere under the judgment of their daily lives; she thought of her own shadowed room, and as she went on and on under the guidance of the laws of those who are no longer conditioned by space or time, she murmured: "I wish that I had known how to measure true values. It might be well for me to be a servant somewhere, and my little playmate the mistress."

CHARLES HOWARD SHINN.



THE RIDERS.

Reprinted from *The Public*, Sept. 8, 1900.

The sound of a shot—then a hullabaloo!
Steady!—you! Steady!—you!
My hand is as steady as a plummet at rest,
And as slow as a sob is the heart in my breast!
Then ho for the riders! and hell for the ridden!
And die, you brown rebels! or cringe as you're bidden!

For war is the fame of the man in the saddle!—
Let pipers of peace call it frenzy astraddle;
But horsemen will gallop, and galloping perish,
To gather the trophies that conquerors cherish!
The riders! The riders! Beware of the riders!—
The strength of the proud, and the pride of the strong!

The riders! The riders! Beware of the riders!
The bugle is singing their marshaling song!

The sound of a shriek in the hullabaloo!
Steady!—you! Steady!—you!
My blood is as chill as the drippings of ice!
And my steel has sunk deep in an enemy thrice!
Come, little one, die! Don't you know I'm your neighbor,

As reeling you clutch at the stroke of my saber!
My saber is crimson, and crimson my vision;
The stripes in the flag wave a crimson derision!
The cannon are growling like bellowing cattle!
I'm mad with the moan and the lust of the battle!
The riders! The riders! Beware of the riders!

The scourge of the earth, and the squadron of death!
The riders! The riders! Beware of the riders!
Inferno is open—they reek of its breath!

A prayer at the end of the hullabaloo!
Listen!—you! Listen!—you!
I lie in the dust at the little one's side!
And no more with the galloping troops shall I ride!
For wounded he whispers, and wounded I harken,
And softly he prays, while the night-shadows darken.
A dim cavalcade through the twilight is fitting—
On phantom-like steeds, phantom horsemen are sitting;

But sweeter the prayer of the little one's speaking
Than glories of war the phantoms are seeking!
The riders! The riders! Beware of the riders!
Like furies they come, and like phantoms they go!
The riders! The riders! Beware of the riders!
They trample a path for the treading of woe!

Then halt! for the riders, and help! for the ridden.
 And peace! for the land of the freedom-forbidden!
 This war is the game of a man in the saddle—
 Well called of the pipers, a frenzy astraddle!
 No horseman must gallop, no rider must perish,
 To gather the trophies that conquerors cherish!

E. J. SALISBURY.

BOOKS

A GUIDE FOR ECONOMIC STUDENTS,

The Singletax Index. For the Quarter ending January, 1915. Volume one, number one. By Ralph Crossman, 121 Second St., San Francisco, Calif. Published by the Author. Price, \$1.00 a quarter.

Not only Singletaxers but all interested in economic questions will feel that Mr. Crossman has performed a valuable service. The student in search of facts bearing on some particular phase of land or taxation questions will find the book useful in directing him to the proper source. The propagandist who knows the facts, but wants to locate his authority, will appreciate the helpfulness of this work. Alphabetical lists are given of books and articles for and against Singletax, or discussing other tax propositions. Where to get desired information on the land question is made clear. The time and labor that this book will save sufficiently justify the painstaking effort that must have been required to gather its contents.

S. D.



"OUT OF THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART."

Landmarks of a Lifetime. By Dorcas Helen Ingham, 114 S. Maryland St., Glendale, Calif. 1914. Price, postpaid, \$1.25.

The title of this volume of verse fairly indicates the nature of its contents. The years of a long life of quiet experiences are marked off by the poetic figures which stamp the time along the changing pathway on which the pilgrim may look back.

It is not of personal life alone that these records keep account. The stirring events and distinguished individuals of her time are celebrated in rhymes which reveal a broad comprehension of, and a deep sympathy with the cause of justice in national disputes. There was little that came into her field of life and thought that was not woven into these poetic webs along whose silver threads we trace the tenderness and purity of a heart that loved the lot of humanity with its visions of divinity. With a natural gift for casting her sentiments and fancies in rhyme (as evidenced by her *Ode to a Tear*, at the age of eleven) Mrs. Ingham seems to have written with no thought of fame,

but merely for the love of self-expression. To those who know and love her, her "Landmarks" will always be very precious.

A. L. M.



ANOTHER TESTIMONY.

Modern Values and Their Christian Sources. By Phillip C. Walcott. Published by The Pilgrim Press, Boston. Price, \$1.00; postage, 10 cents.

In the four essays composing this volume of 200 pages, Mr. Walcott aims to show "that the religion of Jesus Christ is the chief channel through which the most valuable treasures of modern civilization have been preserved to us."

In "The Worth of Life," "The Transcendence of the Spiritual," "The Sovereignty of Righteousness," and "The Consciousness of God," he gives fair treatment of his subject and proves the assertion that "Jesus of Nazareth did not live and die in vain—that his handiwork is to be found in the mind of humanity today"—a statement which the writers of many religious essays are widely endorsing at the present time.

A. L. M.



AN OLD STORY POORLY TOLD.

"Thracian Sea." By John Helston. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1914. Price, \$1.35 net.

"Thracian Sea"—the name of a race horse, by the way—is a most uninteresting example of exactly what a novel ought not to be. It concerns itself intimately with the love between man and woman, but fails to draw the distinction between innately noble and innately ignoble love. Yet to draw that distinction is apparently the purpose of the author and the only excuse for his modern realism—if anything so crude could be called "realism." If the moral is foggy, the plot is clear as crystal. Woman A loves man B who accepts her all and gives not even his name in return. B then loves C, who marries him for his money and promptly falls in love with D, who is man enough to save her from disgrace but not to disappear. C dies; D follows; and B returns sobered to his patiently waiting A when their child is sixteen years old, all three to be happy ever after.

A. L. G.

PERIODICALS

Spiritual Malaria.

The February issue of *The Temple Artisan* (Halcyon, California, price 10 cents), contains a brief article by G. A. Briggs on Social Science. Mr. Briggs makes clear that the greatest obstacle to spiritual advancement is social injustice, which he fittingly calls "spiritual malaria." The removal of this he shows should be the first object of "all teaching whether secular or spiritual." "Other duties come

and other work then will be necessary and possible but this comes first." Speaking to an audience composed almost entirely of those interested in mysticism, the seed sown in this splendid article must necessarily fall on fertile soil.

S. D.



"A City Finding Itself."

Peter Witt's recent Ford Hall address is printed in full including questions and answers in Ford Hall Folks (41 Huntington Ave., Boston. Price, 5 cents) of March 7. The story of Tom L. Johnson's work for Cleveland has not often been more picturesquely or more briefly told than by this staunch follower of his, who has been for years Municipal Traction Commissioner in Cleveland and is now a candidate to succeed Mayor Baker.

A. L. G.



Direct Legislation in 1914.

The New Republic (New York) of March 6 prints a useful supplement in convenient reference form—an Analysis of the Popular Vote on Constitutional and Legislative Proposals in the General Election of 1914. Besides numerous clear and valuable comparative tables, the comments of the investigator, Robert E. Cushman, are to the point: "The real test of popular intelligence is not whether the people vote yes or no on a given measure, but whether they fully realize the significance of that vote, not what their will is, but whether they so use the referendum ballot as to give expression to that will. Viewed in this light the popular voting on measures

last November cannot be called unintelligent. A scanning of the vote on separate measures discloses an almost total absence of that tendency to treat all propositions alike, which betrays an indifferent ignorance. The more exacting the task imposed upon the people, the more painstakingly and discreetly did they perform it. It was certainly no small achievement for the citizenship of California in one election to choose a Progressive governor, a Democratic United States Senator, and carefully to select for passage twenty-seven of forty-eight highly various proposals. And so, while perhaps lamenting the fact that it seemed good to the voter to check the onward march of progressivism, we must pay tribute to the clear-headed consistency with which he did the job."

A. L. G.



Mr. Manley—"Well, my dear, I've had my life insured for five thousand dollars."

Mrs. Manley—"How very sensible of you! Now I sha'n't have to keep telling you to be so careful every place you go."—Pathfinder.



First Chauffeur—Do you find out who you have run over?

Second Chauffeur—Of course; I always read the papers!—Sacred Heart Review.



During the last G. A. R. encampment there was one woman amid the crowd of spectators on the day of the parade who made herself conspicuous by her

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noisy hurrahs and excited waving of a flag as the old veterans marched past. One of the bystanders told her sharply to shut up.

"Shut up yourself!" she retorted. "If you had buried two husbands who had served in the war, you would be hurrahing too."—Everybody's Magazine.



Father (unexpectedly arriving at son's rooming house at school)—"Does Mr. Jinx live here?"

Landlady (wearily)—"Yes—bring him in."—Michigan Gargoyle.



"Willie, run over and see how old Mrs. Smith is this morning."

Willie departed, but in a few moments he came running back, and said:

"She says it's none of your business."

"Why, Willie!" exclaimed his mother. "What did you ask her?"

"Just what you told me to," said Willie; "I said you wanted to know how old she was."—Sacred Heart Review.

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The author has tried to make this work, which is just off the press, "a mighty factor in driving out and utterly destroying the most gigantic superstition that ever haunted the benighted mind of man—the superstition that a people can be enriched by their own taxation."

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THE PUBLIC

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CHICAGO

What the Postman Brings

... Somebody sent me The Public for six months and I thank him. I hope to read it as long as I live. I always feel something short when it does not come on Saturday.

JOHN WHARAN, MASON CITY, IOWA.

... The Public cannot be beat. That contributed article "A Religious Lesson for Billy Sunday" by Scott Nearing in your issue of February 12 was worth the price of a year's subscription.

J. MURPHY, LINCOLN, NEBR.

Has any particular campaign ever been waged to interest the liberal-minded clergymen of the country? The Public could do a great work in this field. Make an effort to get a number of them on your subscription list.

H. W. OLNEY, COLFAX, WASH.

No copy of you since that of Oct. 9th! I wonder what's the reason. We get papers from New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Ohio right along, although they are a month in coming. I see no reason why The Public should not come too. I miss you sadly.

EDWARD H. HASKELL, PHILIPPOLIS, BULGARIA.

Please allow me on behalf of the committee of the Southern Labor Congress to extend thanks for the space given the resolution adopted by the Georgia Federation of Labor, appearing in your splendid publication of February 19, 1915, under the caption: "Labor Wants Light on Taxation."

We further desire to extend thanks through "THE PUBLIC" to the many contributors, who have furnished the committee with data on this very important subject, and to request from any one interested further information.

W. C. PUCKETT, SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE, 919 ATLANTA NATIONAL BANK BLDG., ATLANTA, GA.

Some weeks ago, I saw an advertisement in the Chicago Tribune, which offered to send your paper for a limited term together with pamphlets. I am enclosing 25c and hope that your offer still holds good.

Aside from one or two encyclopedia articles and a few stray tracts and the old Wilshire's Magazine, I have never read any arguments in regard to the Singletax. For some years, however, I have had the impression that practically everybody admitted it was a good thing but very few seemed interested enough in it to want to put it into actual practice. Last summer I heard a certain Missouri politician, who was then a candidate for the United States Senate, denounce the plan very bitterly. This caused me to want to make a further study of the subject. Hence my subscription.

[FROM THE SECRETARY OF A MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION IN MISSOURI.]

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