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EDITORIAL

A Discreditable Explanation.

The German government's explanation of the Arabic affair is suspiciously like that of the Mexican generals who shoot prisoners. The Mexican generals say that the prisoners tried to escape. The prisoners, being dead, cannot deny it. But the excuse is certainly a poor one even if true. It is an even poorer one in the Arabic case. A prisoner may reasonably believe he has a chance to escape and may try it. A claim that he has done so is at least plausible. But it is unreasonable to believe that the captain of a liner, responsible for the safety of all on board, and having some concern for his own safety, will take unnecessary risks of being torpedoed.

S. D.



What Might Have Been.

Ambassador Dumba might reflect that there would be no ex-Austrian subjects employed in American munition factories, had economic justice prevailed in his country. And American citizens who would prevent exportation of munitions would do well to remember that if in years past they had worked for economic justice in the United States, it would not now be necessary for former Austrians or any one else in this country to work in munition factories in order to get a living. These citizens and the papers that claim to speak for them would do more to prevent manufacture of munitions in the future if they insisted on making economic justice an issue in American politics, and not the military interests of a foreign belligerent.

S. D.



Trying to Scare Congress.

As the time for the next gathering of our representatives at Washington approaches public opinion begins to crystallize, and Congressmen listen for the dominant note that is to guide their action. It is now clear that one of the issues will be Militarism, under the seductive and more

euphonious name of Preparedness. The National Security League—note again the seductive title—is conducting an aggressive campaign to create sentiment in favor of greater armament; and should the Pacifists present no constructive program of their own the Militarists may have their way, and this country may embark on a course that will be a burden in time of peace and lead ultimately into war. The National Security League, with Joseph H. Choate and Alton B. Parker as honorary presidents, proposes to work for a program that will stop the present wasteful methods of military appropriations and disbursements, adopt a definite military policy, secure a stronger and better balanced navy, an effective mobile army, an adequate national guard under the War Department, and a reserve for each branch of the military service. To this end:

It is the purpose of the League to lay before the country the plans of defense which have been worked out by our military advisers—the General Staff of the Army and the General Board of the Navy—and which have been approved by the successive administrations of the War and Navy Departments; and it is then our purpose to urge citizens to co-operate in insisting that Congress pay heed to these advisers and make necessary provisions for the defense of the country. . . . With a view to making national defense an issue in each Congressional district, strong and aggressive branches are being formed in all the States, and especially in those districts of the opposition. Steps have already been taken toward establishing branches in 200 cities.



It is the right of the Militarists to conduct such a campaign, if it be prosecuted honestly and sincerely. In view, however, of the unpleasant association of the various commercial interests that have profited by national legislation in the past, it may be well for Congressmen who are not stampered by the sound of great names and high-sounding phrases to keep an eye upon the activities of the ship builders, the armor plate manufacturers and the powder men; and, should facts warrant it, order an investigation into the relations between commercial gain and military preparedness. But it is not necessary to assume that any of the members of the National Security League are governed by anything other than the purest motives. Their course still may be mistaken. They may, as is so often the case, have deceived themselves as to the value and importance of expert testimony. The fact that the General Staff of the Army and the General Board of the Navy have made certain recommendations as to the size of these two arms of the public service is entirely apart from the question of whether or not the country should act upon their recommendations. Should war occur it will

be the duty of these men to make the most effective fight possible for their country. But the question of whether or not there is to be war lies in entirely different hands. Military men, having nothing to do with beginning or concluding war, wish to prepare themselves for any possible combination of circumstances; and hence they naturally seek an armament that can overcome the strongest belligerent that may be pitted against them. Statesmen, however, who are able to say whether or not there is to be war, and with whom, may have in mind an entirely different kind of armament. Men of Mr. Roosevelt's frame of mind, for instance, who wish to "clean up" Mexico, avenge Belgium and set things right in various parts of the world, seek a different kind of armament from what men of President Wilson's mind would have. The recommendations of the professional military men are absolutely useless and foreign to the whole discussion until it has been determined what we are to do with our army and navy; and this determination rests entirely with the statesmen, acting in behalf of the people as a whole.



Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske of the United States Navy, when asked by a member of the House Committee on Navy Affairs how long it would take to get our navy in trim for effective fighting, declared that it would take about five years. When the Admiral expressed a little later on in his testimony his unbounded admiration for the German system of thoroughness in military preparation, one may draw an inference as to the kind of a navy he would have at the end of five years.



The question of preparedness must be met. We must as a nation be prepared to meet our international obligations; but we must first determine our method. Are we to meet the nations of the earth with the open hand of justice or with the mailed fist of might? Are we to maintain a military system sufficient only to protect us from the sudden fury of some angry opponent—who will be brought to a rational state of mind by patience on our part and the opinion of the world; or are we to embark upon the armament rivalry that has brought Europe to such a sad end? We lie at present between two dilemmas. Upon the one hand we have the Chauvinists, who would burden us with an armament sufficient to impose our will; and, on the other, Congressmen whose chief interest in the expenditure of public monies lies in the amount that can be diverted into their several districts. It will require more effort to secure a Congressional vote

to abolish one useless navy yard or army post than to build three battleships. If the upkeep of a navy five years behind the times is greater than that of any other country save England, what would a really effective navy cost? But even the cost is not the deciding factor. We must let our Congressmen know whether we wish peace and disarmament, or a continuance of the mad scramble for supreme physical power. The General Staff and the General Board cannot advise us. This must be decided by the people, and not by the experts.

S. C.



Another Mountain Brings Forth a Mouse.

After all the tumult and shouting concerning "preparedness" on the part of the Chicago Tribune, the Hearst papers and lesser organs of militarism, less than 300 Middle Westerners with \$40 surplus cash to spend have volunteered for the training camp at Fort Sheridan. To avoid utter failure a form of conscription has been adopted. Big Business men are detailing employes to take the course and paying their expenses. The Tribune announces that it will send one man from each of its departments. The local electric light monopoly and a number of other concerns make similar announcements. So probably through such painful efforts the 500 recruits required may finally be scraped together.



The incident may mean that the hysterical cry for preparedness has fallen flat. It may also mean that the men who can afford to take the training course—the men with most property to lose—prefer that others do the fighting. Or it may mean that economic conditions are such that less than 300 men in the Middle West, qualified to serve, can afford the time and expense required. Whatever may be the explanation, Congress will find more important work in legislating to better economic conditions than in worrying over how to escape a bogey created by Militarists.

S. D.



Preparedness.

We hear a great deal about preparedness these days. A large army. Big guns, and great dreadnaughts. But we hear little about that important part—a patriotic citizenry well grounded in the soil. In the alleys of our great cities, in our Lowells, Patersons and Homesteads we are creating armies of sabotage. What stake in the country have these restless hordes, who fill the miles of rented shacks and toil in factories at 17½¢ per hour while high finance steals the profits? Such an inversion of justice gives birth to strange

creeds of hate which develop into mental and physical beggary that end in organized disorder. Regiments of prowess and patriotism are not to be recruited from these. Beggars behind the guns are dead ones and malcontents are enemies.

W. E. GORDON.



Pending An Explanation.

No explanation accompanies the cable dispatch telling of the dismissal of 1,700 employes engaged in land valuation in Great Britain. In the absence of such an explanation, judgment should be suspended, since it is possible that the action does not necessarily imply an interference with the work. But, it must be confessed, it is not quite unreasonable to suspect that the Liberals have surrendered to the nation's worst enemy—the landed interest. A definite explanation can not long be withheld. Should it turn out to be a surrender, then the British people may as well realize that they have suffered a disaster, for which no victory on a foreign battlefield can compensate.

S. D.



Military Philanthropy.

General Leonard Wood proposes as a solution of the industrial and military problems the enlistment of the unemployed as reservists in the United States army. By establishing training camps in the vicinity of the large cities, where the unemployed congregate, a million reservists can be added without withdrawing labor from industry, while giving the men three months' training, together with their board and six dollars a month, or 20 cents a day. This is not for tramps, the General explains, but for the honest seekers after work. A happy solution, indeed! Deprive men of the opportunity to gain a living, and then open the opportunity to be shot. Aside from the fact that it applies to only one class, how does this differ from conscription?

S. C.



Compelling the Idle to Work.

A profound truth lies in St. Paul's injunction that if a man will not work, neither shall he eat; but it is difficult under present conditions to apply his philosophy. Some there are who eat without working because others work for them; others eat without working because there is no work for them to do; and still others eat without working because they do not wish to work. Chicago, attempting to apply this rule of reason to practical conditions, has chosen to begin with the least of the offenders, that is, with those who do not wish to work. Each winter has seen the gathering within the city's borders of an ever increasing army of

idle men. Some of these are men honestly seeking work, and are idle against their will; but some are men of roving dispositions and unsettled habits who prefer to live by charity and petty pilfering. During the pleasant part of the year they roam the country side, working occasionally, but more often begging and "taking." At the approach of winter they flock to the larger cities to enjoy such comforts as may be had from municipal lodging houses, supplemented by organized and unorganized charity. To meet this situation Chicago is setting up, as an inseparable adjunct of the municipal lodging houses, a municipal woodyard, where the unwelcome applicants seeking the reluctant hospitality of the city will be required to reciprocate by sawing a certain amount of wood. This may be a harsh way of serving a man who is idle from necessity, while reaching the man who is idle from choice, but it has the merit of stopping the apologist for things-as-they-are from declaring that all of the unemployed are unworthy of employment or assistance. For no habitual vagrant will long endure the proximity of a woodyard.



This venture has also other possibilities. If it succeeds in weeding out the small number of vagrants who seek to eat without working it may encourage the city to essay the removal of the larger class who does eat without working. Small as is the cost of keeping habitual vagrants, it nevertheless is an unnecessary burden, and should not be tolerated. And if the city will not supply the meager fare of the lodging house to the tramp, without his rendering to the city an equivalent service, the same rule should be applied to other citizens. Those men and women who own lots that have been made valuable by the common labor of the community, and who eat without working because of this labor of the community, should be required to return to the municipality the same equivalent that is exacted of the tramp, that is, full payment for what they receive. It is only thus that we can give a Christian interpretation to the Apostle's, If any will not work, neither shall he eat.

s. c.



Two Dependents.

It is not alone in those monstrous figures showing how few people own the wealth of the country, and how many people live upon their sufferance, that the disparity in conditions is seen. A petition of a laborer who had been out of work for many months, with a large family dependent upon him, was presented recently to the Orphans' Court of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, asking that

\$1.50 per week be allowed for the support of a minor son, who had inherited a small estate of less than a thousand dollars. The court, after assuring itself that the request was within reason, granted the petition. On almost the same day this court entered a decree in favor of Harry Thaw, slayer of Stanford White, directing his trustee to pay him the sum of \$46,213, accumulated interest on a fund held in trust for him. The court has awarded Thaw altogether, since 1904, the sum of \$457,118.



It may satisfy defenders of things-as-they-are to know that all this has been done in conformity with law. To a man out of work, however, with a large family dependent upon him, the law and the social system that bring about such conditions must seem cruel and destructive rather than gentle and protecting. America is spoken of as the land of opportunity, but the poverty of those who work, and the riches of those who idle, indicate that the great opportunity of the people of this country still lies locked in the future, to be freed by the ballot. It is through their free use of the franchise that lies the people's opportunity of making this indeed a land of opportunity. The voting power of the man out of a job is as great that of the richest man in the country; and if he will but think straight he has the full power in his own hands to right his wrongs. There is no call for dynamiting, or for any other use of force. It is all to be done by thinking and voting.

s. c.



Wherein Chicago Outdoes New York.

The fact that ten families in Chicago own one-twelfth of the assessed value of real estate indicates more concentrated ownership of land values than has been shown by New York's Lower Rent Society to exist on Manhattan Island, where thirteen families own one-fifteenth. There is no separate assessment of land and improvements in Chicago, so that official figures of land ownership are not available. But it is a matter of common knowledge that value of improvements on the most high priced land do not equal that of the land, while on less valuable land the value of improvements exceeds that of land. Consequently these ten families must own more than one-twelfth of Chicago's land values even on the basis of present assessments. Then there is the additional fact that present assessments notoriously favor the big land owners. So if instead of assessed values, true values were taken the proportion owned by these ten families would again be

found to be more than one-twelfth. Perhaps some real estate expert can show just how much more it actually is. It is clear, however, that Chicago has outstripped New York City in concentration of land ownership, a fact that ought to make Chicagoans thoroughly ashamed.

S. D.



Talking Like They Believe.

"They talk as though they believe it," remarked the San Francisco Chronicle of August 25, referring to the Singletax conference then in session in that city. It is a pity that the compliment can not be returned. But the truth is that The Chronicle does not voice its opposition to Singletax in a manner as though it believed it. Twice during the past three years there has been submitted in California a proposition for home rule in taxation. Its adoption would have made it possible for any county in the state, where a majority was so inclined, to put the Singletax in operation for local purposes. An opponent of the Singletax, who believed it to be harmful, should have welcomed such a measure. It would have made a test possible, and that test—according to his belief—would have demonstrated to Singletaxers and non-Singletaxers alike the fallacy of the Singletax principle. What better chance to kill for all time so harmful a movement could any honest opponent have wished? But how did the Chronicle look upon it? It fought the home rule proposition tooth and nail. "It means the Singletax," it shouted. That could only have meant that the adoption of the Singletax by one county would prove the claims of the advocates and lead to its adoption elsewhere until it spread over the State. A test—so far from putting an end to the movement—would cause it to spread. It cannot be truthfully said that an opponent who talks like that talks as though he believed all that he says. He either does not believe his professed objections to the Singletax, or he does not believe that home rule in taxation means the Singletax. In neither case can the Chronicle's compliment be returned in good faith.

S. D.



Regulating Business.

Ralph R. Lounsbury, writing in "American Industries," the official organ of the National Association of Manufacturers, makes a strong plea for rational legislation in regulating business. Mr. Lounsbury enumerates among the acts passed during the last thirty years that hamper and restrict the freedom of business, the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887; the Sherman Anti-trust Act of 1890; the Elkins and Hepburn acts of 1903 and 1906;

the creation of the Department of Commerce, with its Bureau of Corporations, in 1903; the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906; the Meat Inspection law of 1907; the Corporation Tax of 1909; the Income Tax of 1913; the Federal Reserve Bank Act, the Clayton Anti-trust Act, and the Federal Commission Act, in 1914. Without attempting to analyze these laws as to their individual merits, the writer says:

It is scarcely outside the bounds of truth to say that for twenty-five years nearly every legislative act dealing with business has been predicated upon the supposition that it is essentially dishonest. Search the statutes unweariedly for the same period, and we shall find little or nothing helpful to honest industry.

It is not of the "shalls" and "shall nots" that he complains, but of the uncertainty and dread of what is to come. He says:

It is only repeating the obvious to say that, to business, uncertainty is death. Not by what it knows, but by what it fears, its energies are paralyzed. It can conform itself to an accepted fact. It halts and waits before impending change. Not that which is, but which may be, throttles its activities, destroys its confidence, and blasts its hopes.



Though Mr. Lounsbury appears to mistake the motive underlying the acts named, he nevertheless is right in estimating their effect. The avowed purpose of the laws was to free small business enterprises from the overwhelming domination of the mammoth combinations. That the acts accomplished so little of their purpose is due to the fact that they have been directed to the restraint of business, rather than to its liberation. If each and every one of these acts did what it was intended to do, if interstate commerce were conducted upon an equitable basis, if all trusts were dissolved, if all foods and drugs were pure, and if corporation and income taxes were honestly levied, business would in the end be no better off than at present. Suppose Congress should cease to harass business with its restrictive measures, and agitators and muck-rakers should give their attention to other matters, while individual enterprise went on without let or hindrance, what would be the inevitable outcome? Suppose, in short, it fulfilled Mr. Lounsbury's prediction. Would not greater activity in manufacturing, and in the various lines of industry, increase the demand for materials? And would not the producers of raw materials compete with each other for the privilege of taking them out of the earth? And would not the owners of the earth passively accept the larger rents and royalties? Removing business restraints will temporarily stimulate business, but that increased activity will in a short time absorb all the gain.

The only effective way to permanently benefit business is to cheapen materials, and remove the artificial restraints. When the price of raw materials represents only the cost of production, all business into which they enter will be permanently benefitted.



Mr. Lounsbury is entirely within reason when he complains that "no business man who honestly desires to keep within the law ought to be obliged to get himself indicted, or have his business dissolved, before he can learn, with certainty, what he may or may not do;" but business can have no such certainty until statute law conforms to natural law. All statute laws that fail of such conformity will fall short of securing the desired end, and such failures will call forth additional and supplementary regulations and restraints. When, however, the lawmakers recognize the natural laws of trade, and give them expression in our statutes, there will be no further need for this constant and pernicious meddling with trade.

s. c.



Incurably Blind.

Before the Initiative and Referendum had actually become an established institution in the United States opponents used to describe it as "a substitute for representative government." Since they have had occasion to see it in actual operation they have no longer an excuse for such a misstatement—if they ever did have. Yet ex-President Taft, speaking before the American Bankers' Association at Seattle on September 9, actually expressed himself that way. From this may be gauged the value of other observations by Mr. Taft on issues of American politics.

s. d.



Juggling With Justice.

Ex-President William H. Taft ambles smilingly, through a labyrinth of eight thousand words to tell the public that woman suffrage may or may not be a good thing for the country and for the women themselves. And whether the effect be good or bad the suffrage cannot be claimed as a right. Since it is all a matter of expediency, in which those who have the ballot will share it with others when such action seems best, it is very reprehensible on the part of the suffragettes to use violence and destroy property. Why? Those who now have the suffrage inherited it from those who fought for it. And have not the women the same right to fight for it that the men had? The action of the English suffragettes was culpable, not as a matter of right but of politics. It was believed by their critics that they could advance their cause

faster by persuasion than by violence. Being but a part of a greater movement for liberty based upon peaceful propaganda, it was felt that force exercised in behalf of that part put in jeopardy the whole. Yet if self-government is a right—and if there are any natural rights at all this must be one of them—those who are denied the right are warranted morally in fighting for it. If self-government be not a natural right but a privilege based upon expediency, then those denied suffrage may fight for it or not, according as it may be deemed best.



Mr. Taft recognizes the changed conditions brought about by modern industry, which he slyly offers as an excuse for Jefferson's failure to specifically mention woman's right to vote. He believes that these changed conditions will lead ultimately to equal suffrage; but he hopes it will be so long delayed that there will be no doubt that woman is thoroughly prepared for her responsibilities before she assumes them. Half regretfully, but still smilingly, he promises not to be a party to the thrusting of this responsibility upon defenseless woman. There is this to be said of Mr. Taft: As a true conservative he will defend equal suffrage—once it is established—as sincerely as he now opposes it.

s. c.



An Insult to Society.

The New York Court of Special Sessions denied a jury trial to William Sanger for an act not morally wrong, and probably not illegal. After denying the prisoner his constitutional rights, the court found him guilty and sentenced him to a heavy fine, in default of which he must go to jail. In passing sentence the presiding justice abused the helpless prisoner and even went out of his way to include advocates of woman suffrage in his insulting remarks. Sanger he declared to be "a menace to Society." It is surely a poor recommendation for Society if it can not dispense with protection of and concern for its interests by justices capable of such conduct as those composing the New York Court of Special Sessions.

s. d.



A Modern Rip Van Winkle.

Rip Van Winkle may have been outdone by an editorial writer of the New York World. On September 7 of this year that paper referred to Governor Altgeld's pardon of Fielden, Neebe and Schwab as an effort to justify bomb-throwing. Such a statement at this day would be excusable if the writer had gone to sleep immediately after the Haymarket affair, not to awaken until more

than 29 years later, with just time enough to write an editorial after hearing of the pardon. So it would be charitable to assume—until authoritatively assured to the contrary—that this writer actually had that experience. Anyone who has kept awake during the past 29 years should be aware that no evidence whatever was produced to connect the condemned anarchists with the bomb-throwing. They were not charged with throwing the bomb. The identity of the person who threw it is a mystery unto this day. All that is clear from the record of the trial is that a jury of prejudiced men was deliberately selected with the aid and sanction of the presiding judge, and that this judge further helped the railroading process in his methods of conducting the trial. Governor Altgeld, a lawyer and former judge, perceived this to have been the case, and presented the facts when issuing the pardon. If the writer of the World article feels thoroughly awakened after his 29 years' sleep, he should get a copy of that pardon, read it, and then write an apology.

S. D.



Keeping the Letter of a Promise.

"There are more ways than one of killing a cat." The Chicago Tribune in making a postal card poll of the public school teachers on the Teachers' Federation question, promises not to divulge names of signers. But it does publish alleged facsimiles of answers received, although with names omitted. If genuine, the handwriting and sentiments expressed will not make it difficult for acquaintances of the writers to guess their identity. Is the Tribune following the same code of ethics in this matter as it followed in securing its lease on school lands?

S. D.



In Defense of the Public Schools.

While admitting the proof offered by Margaret Haley showing the offer of private funds to State Senators supposed to be investigating the school situation, the Chicago Evening Post of September 10 claims that she has failed to show the necessity of a Teachers' union. The Post seems unable to see the woods for the trees. When private interests offer to pay money to help destroy the federation, that alone is positive evidence that the organization must be standing between the schools and hostile designs of these interests. The federation has been the strongest defender the public schools of Chicago have had. Now when plans are brewing to grab the new square mile of land that has recently come to the city, the need of such defense is great-

er than ever. Through affiliation with the Federation of Labor the teachers are able to bring to their support organized labor of the city. Instead of being attacked the Teachers' Federation should be encouraged in its course. There will be time enough to question the need of such an organization when Chicago gets a school board no less interested than the teachers in the welfare of the schools, and when its big daily papers do not try to mislead their readers into acquiescence in predatory plans of special interests.

S. D.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

JAMES BELLANGEE.

Glendale, Calif., Sept. 6.

In anticipation of greeting friends, both old and new, at the then coming Single Tax conference at San Francisco, those who might, and those who should, be there, the thought of James Bellangee came strongly to mind as one of the pioneers who attended the Chicago conference of 1893; therefore the news, soon after, of his sudden death August 7th came as a distressing shock. And now, since for more than twenty-five years, he had made the propaganda of the Henry George idea his best-loved work, both by forceful speaking and writing, and was one of the founders of the Single Tax colony of Fairhope, Alabama, it is fitting to say a few words in his memory.

Though Mr. Bellangee was a college man who occupied for years the chair of mathematics in two state universities successively, he always considered himself one of the common people. Though as an architect and a dweller in cities, he assumed the building of many homes, he was farm bred, of strong physique, and remained at the same time a man of the soil, akin to nature, with the gift for making things grow under his hands, both in a successful greenhouse business and, in the later years of his life, raising choice vegetables for market. It is doubtful if he ever had a dollar which he did not actually earn.

While not a great reader, he had that primary mind which discerns and reasons out things for itself, even attaining at rare moments flashes of intuition. Once, in a discussion of the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" when a socialist declared a vehement affirmative, Mr. Bellangee flashed back: "Not your brother's keeper, Mr. Brown, but your brother's brother."

His instinct for truth, however it might be tangled amid the errors of party platforms and his radical tendency, led him to espouse the Greenback, the Populist, and the Democratic parties in turn as trending most toward justice; in 1896 he was chairman of the Iowa Populist State Central Committee. At the same time his social faculties, his unvarying kindness to every mortal creature, together with a genial yearning for response, for the approval of his neighbors and associates, made him specially vulnerable to the gibes and sneers of the safe-and-sane stand-patters of his large acquaintance in a mossback community. But never did he lose his faith in human-

ity. So, when men in politics declared, "Oh, well, every man has his price," he replied, "I don't think so"; adding significantly, "but when any one says that to me I am sure he knows at least one who has."

Characteristically, he worked out a philosophy for himself one of the tenets of which he expressed thus: "I tell you I have come to the point that I never blame anybody for anything, but," he added, "I am sometimes mightily ashamed of them." Even his shame for them implied his kinship, his brotherhood.

Mr. Bellangee was an orthodox church member, and his faith in the "Justice of the Law of God" was a favorite theme. He likened the fertile earth with its possibilities of fruitful products, to a table spread for all by the Heavenly Father who would never be so unjust as to exclude some and feast others; and he declared that all the injustice which we now suffer was not the will or the purpose of God but came from the breaking of His law by man. Therefore he held that to work for the single tax was to work in accord with the law of God, was to do His will.

Speaking once of the necessity for freed land, free trade, free speech, etc., he added, "What a tremendous significance there is in that one word free!"

And now, though we lament his passing while only at the portal of old age and while yet enjoying mental and physical activity, let us take heart in the thought that his mind and soul, no more fettered by material cares and growing deafness, now rejoices in newfound and manifold greater activity and power for good; that it glories in being free.

LONA INGHAM ROBINSON.



TOURING THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.

Turlock, Calif., Sept. 5.

Since the adjournment of the Joseph Fels Fund and Singletax Conference at San Francisco, a few weeks ago, Mrs. Joseph Fels and her party, Mr. Daniel Kiefer, Chairman of the Fels Fund Commission, Dr. John W. Slaughter of the University of London, Professor Earl Barnes of Philadelphia and Miss Gertrude Huebsch, sister of the well known publisher of New York, have been visiting and speaking at public meetings in San Francisco and the neighborhood, on Singletax, Suffrage and like questions.

Desiring to see the results of the partial application of the Singletax in the irrigation districts of California, Mrs. Fels invited me to become her guest and guide in a tour of the great San Joaquin Valley in Central California. We left San Francisco on last Wednesday, Sept. 1st, for the city of Stockton, ninety miles from the former place. There the Singletaxers, G. McM. Ross, Captain William Simpson and others, had gotten the Chamber of Commerce interested in the visitors, and the entire party were taken in automobiles about the city and through a part of the delta district, seeing some of the fifteen hundred miles of sloughs and canals that provide transportation for the farmers in that reclaimed section of California.

A meeting was held at night in the public square, Mr. Ross introducing the party to the audience. About two hundred and fifty persons were present. The deep interest the people of that city have in the Singletax is shown by this large audience re-

maining standing, listening to the speakers and asking questions for more than two hours. Mrs. Fels was the first speaker, after the introductions. Her soft, gentle voice immediately won the sympathy and interest of her hearers, while her profound knowledge of economics brought home the truth of the Singletax most convincingly. She said in part:

This war will bring singletax and other great reforms. Suffrage for women in England, France and Germany is sure, for the women of those nations are living suffrage today. It will not have to be given them. They will demand and receive it. The singletax will come, and it must come, for the reason that with no other system will the nations be able to pay their enormous war debt. Best of all, the big estates of Europe will be broken up, and the men who are fighting now for home and country will as a result find that they really have a home to fight for when the land is free. These men are soldiers now; they won't return to again take up the yoke of slavery. They are emancipated once and for all time.

Professor Earl Barnes dealt with the Singletax as not only a fiscal measure, but as a movement based in fundamental conceptions of justice, which must inevitably lead to wider thinking, and a more generous brotherhood of man. He illustrated his talk with incidents from the life of Joseph Fels, showing how he was driven from individual aid of those who needed help, through cultivation of vacant lots and small holdings, to a realization that the work was too vast for the individual, and must be worked out by the community through the Singletax.

Dr. Slaughter reviewed the present movement in England for land value taxation, the adoption of the 1909 budget by the Parliament, and the curtailment of the veto power of the House of Lords which resulted from it. He told of the effect of the monopoly of the natural resources in England when the war broke out, raising the cost of living of the working people, without any increase in wages, and causing the great strikes among the munition and coal workers. He said that the common people of England had no desire for this war. The privileged classes were in a position of facing wars outside or difficulties within.

I closed by calling the attention of the audience to a proposed constitutional amendment in California which would give the legislature power to "create subjects of taxation," permitting the restoration of antiquated forms of taxation like taxes on windows, doors and chimneys. It gives the legislature power to make anything the "subject" of taxation, even the right to stand on the sidewalk, or to wear a straw hat. It is backed by the representative of the greatest land monopolists in California—the Kern County Land Company, owning 428,000 acres, and the Southern Pacific Company, which owns about 10,000,000 acres, including 1,000,000 acres of timber land.

Questions were then asked, and answered by Mrs. Fels and the others.

From Stockton, the party journeyed to Sacramento, where the Church Federation, Rev. E. Guy Talbot, secretary, and a staunch Singletaxer, provided a noon luncheon, after which Mrs. Fels and the others made short talks. The balance of the day was spent in an auto ride about the city, and visiting a large fruit cannery and Sutters Fort, where the American settlers in the forties sheltered themselves from the

Indians. In the evening a public meeting was held at the High School Auditorium, under the auspices of the Church Federation. From Sacramento the party journeyed down the Valley, through Stockton to Modesto, where a meeting was held that had been arranged for by the local Socialists. The story of this part of the trip I shall defer to a later date. Mrs. Fels and the rest of the party are very much impressed with the deep interest manifested by the audiences which they addressed throughout California.

EDWARD P. E. TROY.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

TAFT AND THE PHILIPPINES.

Boston, Sept. 9, 1915.

It would seem at first sight that Professor Taft's natural and proper interest in the continuance of the guaranty of the United States for the investments of his family and friends in the Philippine Islands (which from their point of view are so desirable), must have blinded him to the fact that the time is malapropos for discussing the "possessions." It is possible, however, that Mr. Taft may benefit by bringing upon the carpet our "heel of Achilles," with some of those who recall that he objected to our acquisition until President McKinley persuaded him to become viceroy in the archipelago. The people are just now forecasting, in view of the possible contingencies of wartime, that through the necessity of defending our remote colony we might have to acknowledge bitterly that the game was not worth the candle.

ERVING WINSLOW.

FOR THE NATIONAL DEFENSE.

Duluth, Minn., Sept. 2, 1915.

We are asked to choose a system of national defense.

Naturally every American wants the best, the safest, the surest—such preparedness as will avert war if it can be avoided, such defense as will maintain our rights, our honor and our dignity. It is not a question of what we want—we all agree on that. It is a question of the best means for accomplishing what we want.

We see three systems of national defense.

The old world system is now exemplified in Europe. To defend itself, each nation makes itself dreadful. The more it is dreaded, the more the others arm. If any nation becomes preponderantly dreadful, the others are compelled to make common cause of their common fears. Fear makes war. The preparedness of the old world system makes war inevitable. Their system of defense is destruction. It destroys the enemy; it destroys the defender. The old world system of national defense is the mode of death.

There is the Chinese system. The Chinese idea of national defense is to build a wall and sit quietly behind it. It is the way of the clam. It does not commend itself to any American.

And there is the American system of national defense.

This is the American system—to rely not on such

a weak thing as physical force but upon such a strong thing as the public opinion of the world. "A decent respect to the opinions of mankind" was the first foundation of America's defense in its struggle for independence.

"To ask nothing but what is right"—those were Jefferson's instructions to his ministers abroad.

To endure patiently. When the commerce of the United States was harried by privateers manned by confederates but launched by British shipyards, we protested to the British government—and were patient. After the war, our accounts were rendered to England, which refused to consider them. We reserved the right to remonstrate further and endured patiently a season. There came a time, when, the Franco-Prussian war being bruited, England desired friends. On the intimation of Great Britain that it would be welcome, the Alabama claims were again presented, the case was submitted to arbitration and a fair settlement was made. Though we did not immediately gain the acknowledgment of our rights, neither does any litigant who appeals to the law of the land. In the end we gained, not only what was due in that particular matter, but new links of interest and friendship with a powerful nation. That cause arose when Lincoln was President; it went to arbitration in Grant's term. Under Lincoln and Grant our national honor did not suffer, our national dignity was not impaired, our national rights were not disregarded.

Later come the Bering Sea dispute. Canadians were trespassing on our seal preserves. Canadian fishing boats were seized by our maritime police outside our jurisdiction. The dispute over that matter dragged along through the Cleveland and Harrison administrations. It was finally settled on a basis that recognized a new principle in international law. We had contended that we bought from Russia the control of Bering Sea. It was not tenable in international law. We had contended that the seals were ours and therefore we could protect them in the open sea. That was not tenable. But it was decided that, for the common interest, such restrictions should be placed on fishing in the open sea as would preserve the herd from extermination, and the policing was assigned to the United States. Everything that we really sought was conceded. That came by patience. In those two cases we disarmed an enemy and won a friend.

In the crash of Europe our rights have been invaded by both combatants. Germany's killing of non-combatants on neutral ships or merchantmen we held to be violation of our rights under international law. England's blockade measures we held likewise to be infringement of our rights. There has never been a question about reaching, in an orderly way, a conclusion with Great Britain. England admits all the obligations of international law, denying that there has been any departure from such obligation. It is a question of fact and of interpretation of facts, easily determinable. There is no disposition on either side to avoid determination.

But the dispute with Germany was not so simple. A powerful party in Germany, seeing their nation back to the wall, fighting for its existence, declared this was no time for Germany to heed international law or any other thing but saving its own life. It is a point of view one can comprehend.

Yet—here is the supreme triumph of the American system of national defense—even in that mad state which involves all Europe, even though Germany had from the standpoint of immediate interest nothing to lose by rupture with the United States, even in the situation where all foundations seem shaken, Germany has acceded. The statement of its position made by Germany seems to satisfy every demand made by the United States.

That was not fear. Whatever else one may think of Germany, it does not shrink under fear. If anything is certain, it is that Germany cannot be moved by threats. The American system of defense somehow gained what threats or dreadfulness could not have won.

The American system of national defense is to disarm its enemies.

We all hope that by and by the whole world will lay aside its arms. But America has not waited for that. As a system of national defense, it is sufficient if we disarm each enemy.

Can we disarm all enemies? We do not know. We only know that the American system of defense has succeeded whenever it had fair trial. Only once in seventy years have we come to blows with a foreign power. That was not because the difficulty could not have been resolved in any other way, but because this nation decided upon war. The nation forced war on the administration. War could have been avoided then if the public opinion of the United States had been willing. And there is reason now to suppose that all we hoped to accomplish by that war could have been gained by other means.

We do not know whether the American system of national defense would have sufficed in the Spanish-American emergency to maintain the rights, the honor and the dignity of the nation, because we did not try. In every other case we know that the American system has been a success.

There are three systems of national defense.

There is the old world way, the way of death. It is a failure. It fails inevitably.

There is the Chinese way, which nobody advocates.

There is the American system, which has never yet failed. It is the way of life.

We are asked to choose. We have chosen. The American system has gained its way in each generation. It met in recent affairs its severest test. This people is less and less disposed to rely on the feeble support of physical force, the crude decisions of war, the bungling justice of combat. More and more it relies upon the strength of ideas, the settlements of justice, the certainties of universal opinion.

The old world system of national defense is to conquer its enemies. The American system is to win them.

JOHN S. PARDEE.



The most that the State can do for civilization and social progress is to mind its own business. With the promotion of civilization abroad it can have no proper concern, while the progress of its own people can be really promoted only by securing them in the free and equal enjoyment of natural opportunities for progress.—John Sherwin Crosby in *The Orthocratic State*.

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, September 14, 1915.

William Sanger Convicted.

After being refused a jury, William Sanger was put on trial on September 10 before the Court of Special Sessions of New York. Mr. Sanger is the husband of Margaret Sanger, authoress of a pamphlet on birth control. He had been visited during his wife's absence by a man representing himself as a Mr. Heller, a friend of Mrs. Sanger, who asked to be given a copy of this pamphlet. Sanger at first refused, but the man was so persistent that he finally yielded, but refused to accept pay for the pamphlet. His visitor turned out to be one Charles J. Bamberger, agent of Anthony Comstock. Bamberger admitted the deception on the stand. Sanger refused to retain a lawyer, to cross-examine witnesses or to testify himself. Instead he insisted on reading a statement explaining his position. He started to tell the court that after his arrest Comstock had offered him a suspended sentence, if he would plead guilty, but that he had refused this offer. In telling this he was interrupted by Justice McInerney, who declared he would not have "a lot of rigamarole" on the record. The three justices, McInerney, Salmon and Herbert, found him guilty of "circulating a pamphlet that was both immoral and indecent." Justice McInerney then said to the prisoner:

Such persons as you who circulate such pamphlets are a menace to society. There are too many now who believe it is a crime to have children. If some of the women who are going around and advocating equal suffrage would go around and advocate women having children they would do a greater service. This, however, is my personal opinion.

Sanger was not allowed to complete his statement as to why sentence should not be passed upon him and was ordered to pay a fine of \$150 or serve thirty days in the city prison. He refused to pay the fine, saying "it is the law and not I that is on trial here today." He was then taken to jail. [See current volume, page 311.]



Free Speech in Paterson.

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, who was denied the right to speak in Paterson, announced on September 6 that she would bring suit against the city. When she had remonstrated against interference with her constitutional rights with Chief of Police Bimson, she says that he answered:

You may have the right to speak but we have the power to prevent you.

[See current volume, page 886.]

New York Constitutional Convention.

The New York State Constitutional convention adjourned finally on September 10, having been in session since April 6. It adopted 33 articles and amendments. The revised document goes to the people to be voted on for adoption or rejection as a whole in November. The final vote submitting it was 118 to 33. In voting against it William Barnes protested against the refusal to let voters pass on each amendment separately, and in reference to the clause allowing palliative legislation he said: "I can not by my vote do anything to aid cause of State Socialism." Woman suffrage will be separately voted on. [See current volume, page 839.]



The amendments submitted are summarized by the Knickerbocker Press of Albany as follows:

Reduction of elective state officers from seven to four—Governor, lieutenant governor, comptroller and attorney general; reorganization of the state departments, reducing them in number from 152 to seventeen, and giving the governor the appointive power for all heads of departments with the exception of those elected directly by the people.

Establishing an executive budget system, requiring the governor to initiate appropriations for the state government instead of the legislature.

A new article on conservation, placing at the head of the department nine unpaid members appointed by the governor, one from each judicial district of the state for a term of nine years.

A new article on taxation, the purpose of which is to grant the legislature more power over assessments and collection of taxes throughout the state. This article will be submitted separately.

Granting to cities a large measure of home rule, leaving to the legislature the right to nullify city charters only when they invade the jurisdiction of the state.

New article on canals, prohibiting the legislature from selling, leasing or disposing of canal terminals, and permitting leases of surplus water of the canal for power purposes.

Increasing the salary of the legislators from \$1,500 to \$2,500 a year, and allowing weekly railroad fare during the session.

Authorizing the legislature to regulate and prohibit manufacturing in tenement houses.

Authorizing legislation by which the victims of occupational diseases may be compensated.

New section in bill of rights enabling persons charged with a felony to plead guilty without waiting for grand jury, and providing for other changes.

Providing for submission of woman suffrage amendment as required by legislative action.

Amendment to stop log rolling in legislature and prevent appropriation of state money for local purposes.

Authorizing legislature to enact laws by which cities may adopt the serial bond system.

Requiring the legislature to enact a brief and simple civil practice act to expedite and simplify the administration of justice; increasing the judges of

the Court of Appeals from seven to ten members, and making other judiciary changes.

Providing for special registration days for absentee voters.

Providing for the increase of the governor's salary from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year, to take effect January 1, 1917.

Providing for succession to the governorship in the event of a vacancy in that office.

Making it possible for the legislature to convene of its own motion to take action for removal of judges and of the assembly in cases of impeachment.

Abolishing Indian courts and bringing the Indians under the jurisdiction of white men's courts.

Providing that no extra compensation shall be granted to public officers or contractors by the state or any civil division.

Providing for serial bond system for the state to take the place of long term sinking fund bonds.

Abolishing the emergency message of the governor.

Amending military law so that the legislature may prescribe the number and qualification of officers of the National Guard.

Amending military law so that all commissioned and non-commissioned officers, chosen or appointed, shall have qualifications as the legislature may decide.

Amendment by which military officers shall be removed from office for absence without leave for a period of three nights or more instead of six months, as at present.

Providing that management and fiscal control of state hospitals for insane shall remain in the state commission in lunacy.

Authorizing legislature to distribute surplus highway funds for state routes.

Providing that a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature shall constitute a quorum, instead of a majority of each house as at present.

Granting to counties home rule in their county affairs, including the right to change their form of government.

Authorizing the legislature to provide for state apportionment based upon the enumeration taken in 1915. This article is submitted separately.

Providing that the Constitution shall take effect January 1, 1916, if approved by the people in November.

Prohibiting the legislature from auditing or allowing any private claim, and from passing any local or private bill granting any association or individual the right to prove a claim against the state.

Providing that the lieutenant governor, speaker of assembly, secretary of state, attorney general, comptroller, treasurer and superintendent of public works shall constitute the canal board, and be commissioners of the land office and commissioners of the canal fund.

**Special Interests Fight Teachers' Federation.**

Positive evidence that money has been furnished by unknown private individuals, to be used in the effort to destroy the Chicago Teachers' Federation, was produced by Margaret Haley at a protest meeting which filled the Auditorium on September 8. Miss Haley produced a copy of the following let-

ter to State Senator Canaday of the committee to investigate Chicago school conditions. The letter was from Myer J. Stein, attorney for the committee. It follows:

Hon. Stephen D. Canaday, Hillsboro, Ill.—Dear Senator: Disinterested citizens of Chicago—personal friends of mine—acting entirely from philanthropic motives, and having no axes to grind, have arranged to provide the committee with funds for the payment of its actual expenditures during the course of this investigation. I am perfectly willing to go along without any money for myself, but there are necessary expenses incurred, and it has been necessary for me to make this arrangement.

In this connection I want to say that you have been put to considerable expense, and will be in the future attending hearings of the committee, in view of which fact I want you to please send me a statement of your expenses to this date and I will see that you are paid. I have given my word to these friends of mine that this amount will be paid to them immediately the next session of the legislature convenes.

Instead of taking a vacation, as I had intended to do, I have gone along with the work and, together with my assistants, am working almost night and day in the preparation of evidence to be submitted when the committee reconvenes.

Of course you understand that in the future your expenses will be taken care of, as the sacrifice you are making in attending the sessions already are considerable. With kind regards, I am yours very truly,
Myer J. ———, M. J. S.

Miss Haley further charged that this committee had never been authorized by the State Senate, but that the Senate Journal had been altered after adjournment to make it appear as though such a resolution had passed. Some senators who were present on the last day of the session when, according to the Journal, the investigation was ordered, are reported in newspaper interviews as saying that no such matter came up. In the course of investigation the committee heard only hostile witnesses against the Teachers' Federation. When the Federation demanded an opportunity to be heard in reply the committee adjourned, not to meet again until September 15. Chairman Baldwin of the committee announced on September 14 that he would not allow the Federation a hearing on reconvening of the committee. It was the evidence presented to the Senate committee that was made the pretext for adoption by the Board of Education of the rule against the Teachers' Federation. [See current volume, page 885.]

Miss Haley told that during the recent session of the legislature she was urged by Secretary Lewis Larson of the Board of Education to use her influence in putting through the tax amendment favored by the Chicago Real Estate Board, Civic Federation and other interests, in return for legislation that would supply sufficient funds for an increase in the teachers' salaries. She refused on

the ground that the teachers did not wish to secure personal gain at the expense of public interests. The proposed tax amendment—which actually was submitted—she explained was in the interest of holders of certain kinds of intangible personal property, and was pushed to shut out the Initiative and Referendum. Moreover, being a Singletaxer, she could see the economic wrong of the proposal. She has put in the hands of State's Attorney Hoyne the evidence she has gathered.

Louis F. Post, in addressing the meeting, called attention to the fact that this attack on the Federation comes at a time when certain interests are planning to grab school lands. He told how, when Illinois was admitted into the Union in 1818, every township was given a square mile of land by the Federal Government to be used in the interest of the public schools. Chicago's square mile, with the exception of a few parcels, was sold to private parties 70 years ago for \$40,000. Fifteen years later this square mile was worth \$6,000,000. While he was a member of the school board, in 1906, a tentative assessment made by one of the best experts in the country showed that at a conservative estimate the annual rental value of this square mile was at least \$40,000,000, and probably even more than \$50,000,000. And the Board now has difficulty in raising the \$18,000,000 a year needed for school purposes. The parcels still remaining yield \$500,000 a year to the school fund, but should yield at least \$750,000. The Tribune secured in some way in 1895 a lease that made its ground rental less than that of surrounding property. Governor Altgeld had pointed this out at the time. But the lease contained a clause providing for revaluation every ten years. When the time came for revaluation in 1905 the Tribune secured, from a school board whose term was expiring, at a midnight session, a renewal for 99 years of its lease on the 1895 basis, with the revaluation clause eliminated. It now pays but half the rental of adjoining property. Recently annexation of Clearing has brought a square mile of school land into the jurisdiction of Chicago's Board of Education. This, with other land, makes about 1,000 acres owned by the city. Already there are heard suggestions that this land be sold. Desire to get this land is the real motive back of the attack on the Federation. Other speakers were Samuel Gompers and John H. Walker, president of the Illinois Federation of Labor.

On September 14, State's Attorney Hoyne and the Teachers' Federation applied for an injunction restraining the school board from enforcing its rule against that organization. A suit to compel Secretary Larson and the board to let their books be inspected by the City Council has already been entered. Another suit is in preparation by the attorney for the school board, Angus Roy

Shannon, to set aside a recent low valuation of school lands on State street. This suit is to be made in spite of the opposition of members leading in the fight on the teachers.



Los Angeles Has Woman Mayor.

Mrs. Estella Lawton Lindsey became acting mayor of Los Angeles on September 10 during the absence in San Francisco of Mayor Sebastian, and the president of the city council. The council unanimously elected her president pro tem, making her the first mayor—even for a time—of a city of metropolitan size. In declaring her policy, if made mayor for a full term, Mrs. Lindsey said:

Here are some of the things I would like to do, if I were permanent mayoress:

Devise some system for ridding the city of the necessity of charity; give employment to hundreds of unemployed but capable men by having the city do its own paving. This paving work alone amounts to \$1,000,000 a year.

Then I would have all streets lighted by city power, and other public service utilities under city control. I would abolish the city jail, and establish a large, healthful farm where delinquents could earn their own living in the open air. Products from this farm could be sold and almost made to support the institution.

I would put into force the single tax idea. This would abolish the land sharks, one of the detested parasites that still survive among us.

And I could go and name numberless new betterments I would effect, but of course that power is rarely, if ever vested in one individual in these days.



Public Revenue From Forests.

The gross receipts of the Federal Forest Service for the year ending June 30, 1915, were \$2,481,469.35. Of this 25 per cent goes to the States wherein the forests are located to make up for loss of local taxes due to public ownership of the land. An additional 10 per cent is set aside to build roads and trails for local communities. The proportion of each State is based on the amount collected from it. Montana is to get \$79,589.79 for county school and road purposes, and \$31,835.91 from the 10 per cent fund. Idaho gets \$75,651.15, and \$30,250.46 from the 10 per cent fund; California, \$67,611.37; Arizona, \$59,807.89 under the 25 per cent provision, and \$23,923.16 under the 10 per cent; Colorado, \$59,218.60 and \$23,687.44; Oregon, \$49,675.83 and \$19,870.33; Utah, \$48,675.96 and \$19,470.38; Wyoming, \$43,086.86 and \$17,234.75; Washington, \$37,445.56 and \$14,978.23; New Mexico, \$31,786.46 and \$12,714.58; Nevada, \$16,244.53 and \$6,497.81; South Dakota, \$12,988.11 and \$5,195.25; Alaska, \$11,165.75 and \$4,466.30; Arkansas, \$8,738.93 and \$3,495.57; Florida, \$2,336.77 and \$934.71; Minnesota, \$1,971.60 and \$778.64; Nebraska, \$1,401.15 and \$560.46; Kansas, \$1,357.33 and \$542.93; Oklahoma, \$759.77 and \$303.91; Mich-

igan, \$198.37 and \$79.35; North Dakota, \$81.33 and \$32.73; Porto Rico, \$9.25 and \$3.70. The States of Arizona and New Mexico receive additional shares for their school funds on account of school lands included within the National Forests, yielding them \$28,966.46 and \$9,311.87 respectively. On the National Forest Purchase Areas in the east a total of \$3,977.60 was collected in Georgia, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, these States thereby sharing \$994.40 under the 25 per cent provision and \$397.76 under the 10 per cent.



Mexico.

General Carranza, in reply to the appeal of the United States and the South and Central American countries to meet the other revolutionary leaders with a view to compromising their differences, declines to meet their wishes. In a note issued by his foreign minister, Acuna, General Carranza declares that he controls all Mexico, except the States of Chihuahua and Morelos, and a part of the State of Sonoro. He invites the signers of the American note, either in person or by representatives, to meet at some point on the Rio Grande, where the affairs of Mexico may be discussed from an international point of view, and with a view to recognizing Carranza's as the de facto government. The First Chief of the Constitutionals claims that he commands 150,000 men, that the functions of the public service have been restored, the railroads repaired and the traffic resumed. General Carranza's statement is under the consideration of the Washington Administration and the representatives of the South and Central American countries. [See current volume, page 884.]



Small disturbances along the border continue, particularly in the vicinity of Brownsville, but nothing has occurred to give color to the rumored uprising in Texas, or invasion from Mexico.



European War.

The German advance under General von Hindenburg south of Riga has reached the railroad between Vilna and Dvinsk on the Dvina river. The Russians still hold the east bank of the Dvina, but their rail communications are interrupted south of Dvinsk. Slower progress is made by the Germans toward Pinsk on the center of the line; and in the south the Austrians have met with reverses in eastern Galicia, where the Russians claim to have captured a large number of men and guns. Although the German advance continues on Riga, it is thought the rainy weather and approaching winter will not permit them to proceed much beyond their present line. A general reconstruction of Russian internal conditions is going on. The Czar has assumed command of the armies, and sent Grand Duke Nicholas hitherto in

command to the Caucasian front. The cabinet has resigned. Premier Goremykin is expected to be retired; but the ministers of war and foreign affairs may remain; and a new minister, that of munitions, is reported. Rumors of speculation, graft and general corruption, similar to those that arose during the Russo-Japanese war, are current. The supply of munitions has been short, and much that was sent to the front is said to have been inferior, or of a wrong kind. The recent failure of the army is attributed by critics to a lack of arms and ammunition. [See current volume, page 882.]



The British front in the west is reported to be now 100 miles, or three times what it has been, which is taken to indicate the movement of the new British recruits to the front. This, in connection with the large supplies of ammunition that have been accumulated, gives color to the rumor that offensive movements will begin by the first of October. Heavy fighting has taken place in the Vosges Mountains, and in the forest of Argonne, but without material changes in the lines. Heavy casualties are reported in connection with these movements. Several Zeppelin raids have been made on the eastern coast of England, but without material result aside from the killing of non-combatants, among whom were a number of women and children. A few ships are taken by the submarines, but the number appears to be much less than formerly.



The Italian campaign and the campaign at the Dardanelles show little change. The Italians are preparing to renew their attack on Goritz on the Isonzo river, which must be taken before they can advance upon Trieste.



Matters other than the movement of armies are attracting attention in connection with the war. President Wilson directed Ambassador Penfield at Vienna to request the Austro-Hungarian government to recall its Washington Ambassador, Dr. Dumba, on account of his unfriendly activity in causing strikes in American factories making munitions, and otherwise interfering with American internal affairs. The Vienna government has not acted, but it is expected to accede to the wishes of this country. Captain von Papen at the German embassy, who was acting with the Austrian ambassador, has been given a leave of absence and will return to Germany as soon as a safe conduct can be obtained.



Negotiations with Germany over submarine warfare continue in a friendly spirit, but without arriving at definite results. The German note, under date of September 7, regarding the torpedoing of the steamship *Arabic*, explains the submarine commander's failure to respect the rights of

neutrals and non-combatants, as promised by Germany, by saying the commander believed the *Arabic* intended to ram his submarine. The officers and passengers of the *Arabic* declare the submarine was not even sighted, and hence could not have been made the object of an attack. The German government expresses regret for the loss of the lives of American citizens, but adds:

The German government is unable, however, to acknowledge any obligation to grant indemnity in the matter, even if the commander should have been mistaken as to the aggressive intentions of the *Arabic*.

The note closes with an offer to submit the matter to The Hague tribunal in case the two governments are unable to come to an agreement through diplomatic channels. Ambassador von Bernstorff has given renewed assurances since the sinking of the *Hesperian* that his government means to respect the rights of neutrals and non-combatants by refraining from attacking passenger ships until provision has been made for the safety of passengers and crew.



The British Trade Congress, representing 3,000,000 workers, voted decisively against conscription. The Congress also voted down by a large majority a resolution calling upon a Parliamentary committee to formulate terms of peace satisfactory to the working classes.

NEWS NOTES

—The British Minister of Munitions, David Lloyd George, has taken over 715 private munitions plants since the creation of his department.

—Henry Ford announced on September 5 that he has set aside \$1,000,000 to be used in a campaign for peace, and against the demand for preparedness.

—The New York State census shows a population of 9,773,817. New York City has 5,066,222, an increase of 300,661 over the Federal census of 1910. Manhattan borough shows a decrease of 187,481.

—Renewed disturbances in Portugal are announced as an insurrection in Lisbon and in the principal provincial cities. No statement has been given out by the Portuguese government. [See current volume, page 862.]

—President Wilson, through Secretary Tumulty on September 7, prevented adoption of a resolution by the Hudson County, New Jersey, Democratic Committee endorsing his renomination. [See current volume, page 886.]

—Gustav Stahl, who made affidavit to having seen four guns mounted on the *Lusitania* before starting on her last voyage, plead guilty to perjury on September 9 before Judge Hough of New York, and was sentenced to 18 months in the Atlanta penitentiary.

—One of the British war retrenchments announced is the dismissal of 1,700 employes of the land valuation department which was created under the budget

of 1909 to make a complete valuation of all the land in Great Britain as a preliminary step to the taxation of unearned increments.

—Immigrant aliens admitted to the United States during July numbered 21,504; emigrant aliens departed in July, 9,861. The total immigration for the year ending June 30, 1915, was 326,700, as against 1,218,480 for 1914. Emigrants departing in year ending June 30, 1915, were 204,074, as compared with 303,338 in 1914.

—The Cleveland Singletax Club announces itself in readiness to furnish lecturers to churches, lodges, unions or other organizations. Among its list of speakers are Judge George S. Addams of the Juvenile Court; William Agnew, Virgil D. Allen, W. F. Bien, Henry P. Boynton, Edmund Vance Cooke, John D. Fackler, David Gibson of The Ground Hog, Wilbur B. Lutton, "Billy" Radcliffe, Dr. J. E. Tuckerman, and Stephen M. Young. Headquarters are at 404 Williamson building.

PRESS OPINIONS

Like Tariff Protection to American Labor.

Cleveland Press, Aug. 31.—We just can't succeed in turning on the tears and throwing a fit over the fact that the glorious old stars and stripes has disappeared from the Pacific merchant marine because of the sale of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co.'s vessels to an Atlantic concern. It is true that old glory has been hauled down, as to the Pacific, but it is also true that it was flying over the underfed Chinese crews exclusively. Such use wasn't doing the flag any good and we're sure it didn't help the Chinese.



Touching the Foundation of Monopoly.

Saturday Evening Post, Sept. 4.—Formerly Pittsburgh had a lovely system of taxation that put a premium on holding city land vacant and unimproved for a speculative rise in value, and penalized the man who rashly improved a bit of land by building a home on it. So long as the land was held vacant and grew up to weeds it might palm itself off as agricultural property and take only half the tax rate imposed on a workman's home. The inexpediency of this system was persistently pointed out. It was urged that doubling a man's tax rate because he improved his land was a poor way to induce improvement; but we do not remember anybody's urging that this inexpedient tax system would ruin the city, drive capital to suicide, paralyze enterprise, and destroy our most cherished American institutions. It was a poor way of taxing realty; but that a city would continue to grow in spite of it and the palladium of our liberties manage to maintain a perpendicular position nobody seemed seriously to doubt. In correcting this old system Pittsburgh put the emphasis on the other side, where it plainly belongs. That city provided that, by slow steps, extending over a series of years, the tax rate on improvements should be reduced to half that on land. The new system went into effect only a year ago; so improvements, as yet, enjoy only a ten per cent advantage over land. Already we find this new system denounced in bitter and sweeping terms, as

visibly bearing the seeds of universal ruin and decay. So distressful is the clamor against it that the last legislature would have repealed the law if the governor had not intervened. Touch the city landlord with only the tip of a finger, and a spasm runs through the conservative body politic.



True and Timely Words.

The Ground Hog (Cleveland, O.), Sept. 11.—The anti-Roman Catholic propaganda now going on over the country is most dangerous; for it is retarding our progress to a real democracy. It does seem that at the first signs of an intellectual getting together on a fundamental economic issue that a dust of some emotional issue is blown up to divert the public mind from the real economic evils which beset the people. The Roman Catholic prejudice which is now in full flame in many parts is being used by a lot of grafters and political and social reactionaries as a horse and saddle to ride back into office and power. Senator Boies Penrose of Pennsylvania, and Uncle Joe Cannon, for instance. We do not say that this anti-Catholic movement was started by grafters and reactionaries, but we do say that it has been seized upon by them and fanned into action more efficiently to suit their purpose of masking the real issue and preventing the mass, by division in hatred, from throwing off their yoke. Many men of honest hearts and good heads are being forced out and kept out of public life simply because they happen to be Catholics or their parents were Catholics or because they refuse to do the undemocratic thing and follow the dictates of organizations, the members of which have had the flame of prejudice fanned until all reason has been consumed. . . . Making America Catholic is all rot! There are twenty million Catholics in this country. There are eighty million people of other faiths or no faith. Now, if twenty million people can rule eighty million people—well, then they ought to be ruled. People can never get together on religion. But they can get together on ethics of the right and wrong in their human relations. And any movement that tends to separate people is undemocratic because it prevents a common view of right and wrong. . . . Men with hate in their hearts vote for their prejudices and against economic principles and men true to these principles, which tend toward more and better things in life and true happiness. And these are the common heritage of all men of all religions and it will require their efforts in unison to obtain them.



Unveiling a Parallel.

Fairhope (Ala.) Courier, Sept. 3.—Years ago the farm laborers in England objected to being given the vote. They were the anti-suffragists of their day. A story is told of a meeting in which all classes of workmen were invited to attend and state their political needs to the politicians and clergy then controlling affairs of state. Some of the far-seeing and intelligent of the working class urged the vote as a protection of their interests. They recognized its value, but a fellow in the blue smock of a farmer arose and gave his opinion that the working class didn't need the vote; it wouldn't be safe with them and that they hadn't learning enough

to use it wisely. The politicians and the bishops gravely agreed to this viewpoint. The anti-suffragist closed his remarks by saying: "The likes of us should never vote. We are satisfied to have you do the voting for us." The same logic is used by some anti-suffragists today. Imagine a trained educated woman teacher being satisfied to have a newly naturalized foreigner or an illiterate "do the voting for her." Would you reasonably consider her a fit instructor for the boys and girls who are to be future citizens of the United States?



Common Sense Under Another Name.

Christian Science Monitor (Boston), Sept. 7.—In the course of a taxation investigation it has been shown that there are in Massachusetts a million acres of unused land. Very little of this considerable area is thought to be incapable of being turned to good account in some way or other, and the community problem is how to cause the owners to make use of it. The state forester saw in the taxation inquiry an opportunity for a hint in that direction and he advocated the higher taxing of the land, so that, as he expressed it, "owners shall realize the potential value of the land and take steps to develop it for their own protection." If this were said in an academic discussion it would be labeled "singletax." Said where it was, it passes for simple common sense. But perhaps those terms are interchangeable.

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

Correction.

In the John P. Altgeld address by Louis F. Post at page 888 of last week's Public, in the fifth paragraph the phrase "mothers in the world" was erroneously printed for "workers in the world."



A TYPICAL FOOL.

By Joseph McDonald, with Apologies to Kipling.

A fool there was who went to war
(As fools are wont to do),
To kill some one he never saw,
For kaisers and kings whose will is law,
To freeze and starve and sleep on straw
(As fools are wont to do).

Oh! the lives we take and the sorrow we make,
And the orphans' cry in the land,
Charge up to the devils who started the strife.
We hope they will have to account for each life,
And be made to understand.

A fool there was and his strength he spent
(As fools are wont to do),
He shot to kill with good intent
(He didn't know what the warfare meant).
But rulers must follow their selfish bent
(As rulers are wont to do).

Oh! the blood we spilled and the men we killed
Were just what the rulers planned,

We did the killing but never knew why;
And now we know we never knew why
(And did not understand).

The fool was cut through his foolish hide
(As fools are wont to be).
When he found the rulers had cast him aside,
With an iron cross to swell his pride.
So part of him lived, but most of him died.
(As fools are wont to do).

And it isn't the cross and it isn't the loss
That stings like a white hot brand,
'Tis coming to know that he acted the fool,
And did not understand.



ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

Part of a Private Letter, Under Date of August 26,
from a Wounded Soldier in the British Army
to John Maskell of 1159 West Adams Street,
Chicago, Published by Permission.

I am all in. I am in a hospital in England. I am sorry to say I am deaf and dumb through shock and wounds. I have been on the armored cars during the last five months. I was a motorcycle dispatch rider and armored car driver. I was driving a 60-horse power armored car. I could not drive my car through the dead bodies fast enough. The bodies of horses and men were so thick that it was impossible to get through. All at once a 50-pound shell hit my armored car and blew us up in the air. When they got me from underneath the wrecked car I was deaf and dumb, with my ribs crushed and spine hurt. That was a month ago. The other three men that fired the Maxim guns inside the car were blown to bits. It is an awful sight on the battlefield. Sometimes I would open wide my car and drive into a regiment of Germans at about 50 miles an hour. The car weighs four tons, with three Maxim guns, three men besides myself and ten thousand rounds of bullets inside. And when I would take a mad drive through a regiment I could kill about 50 to 100 every time. After making a dash for it my wheels and radiator would be full of blood and legs and arms when I got back to the base. Then I would have to get all flesh and bones from my wheels. It has nearly made my hair white. I am tired of killing people. It is on my nerves. If you had seen me this summer up to the eyes in blood! One might as well be in Hell as in a charge. We have to stand face to face and batter each other's brains out. I have had my bayonet through fellows' bodies. I have been so weak that I could hardly pull it out again. When you are like that you don't care what becomes of you. I only wish I were with you now. The battlefield is like Hell. The sky is lit up all night by torch lights and shells. We have fist fights and bayonet fights. We are killing one another any way we can. I am so weak now I cannot write any more this time.

WHERE CONGRESSMEN STAND.

The following questions were recently sent by The Public to Congressmen and Senators:

1. Do you think that Congress can legislate in such a way as to increase opportunities for employment?

2. Should the telegraph and telephone be made part of the postal system?

3. What measures additional to those already existing are needed for conservation of natural resources?

4. Would it be practical or desirable to defray the cost of the government railroad in Alaska by the method proposed in the bill of Congressman Bailey of Pennsylvania; that is, to take for this purpose the land values which the building of the road will create?

5. Should the Trade Commission in investigating a trust seek to determine whether it has monopolistic power derived from some special aid given it by government, from some unfair advantage conferred by a railroad corporation, or from control of natural resources?

6. A. Should the District of Columbia be given complete local self-government?

B. Do you favor municipalization of the street railways and other public utilities of the District?

C. Should the half and half system of paying local government expenses in the District be abolished?

D. Should any change be made in the present system of taxation of the District?

Publication of definite answers received began on page 864 of current volume, to be continued in this and later issues until completed.—[Editors of The Public.]

Congressman H. T. Helgesen of North Dakota.

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. This can not be answered in a few words.

4. I don't remember what Bailey's bill provides for, but some such plan could be worked out.

5. Yes.

6. A. No.

B. Yes.

C. Not unless a better system can be worked out.

D. Yes.

Senator Key Pittman of Nevada.

1. Yes, and should do so.

2. Yes.

3. Matter was fairly covered by bills introduced during last congress. All the bills require amendment, however.

4. Have not read the bill. Am satisfied that the provisions of the present railroad bill requiring proceeds derived from public domain will be ample to pay for the road.

5. Yes.

6. A. No.

B. Yes.

C. Without any information at hand, and without giving the matter careful consideration, would answer in negative.

D. Not prepared to answer the question.

You will realize, of course, that some of these

questions I have not had an opportunity to give careful consideration to, and that some of the answers should be amplified to be entirely understood.

Congressman H. P. Snyder of New York.

1. Yes, by enacting a good Republican protective tariff law.

2. Not at the present time.

3. I think the protective conservation measures, if enforced, are sufficient in this direction.

4. No.

5. Your proposition is too broad to be covered in the limited space.

6. A. Not entirely.

B. Not at the present time.

C. No.

D. Immaterial.

Senator James W. Wadsworth of New York.

1. It is possible—to a limited degree.

2. No.

3. Legislation permitting their use under proper regulation.

4. I doubt it. Have not studied the question.

5. Not answered.

6. A. No.

B. No.

C. No.

D. No.

Congressman John H. Small of North Carolina.

1. Have not studied subject. Doubtful, except by bringing the job and the willing employe together.

2. Yes, the telegraph, but am doubtful about the telephone.

3. The enactment into law of the bills which passed the House last session would probably meet the situation.

4. I do not think so. I fear the method is impracticable.

5. Yes. There is this limitation as to natural resources; that is to say, that vested rights may have been acquired. If the public supinely permit citizens to secure legal control of natural resources and establish a monopoly, those rights ought not to be taken away without compensation.

6. A. I doubt it. Congress representing the Federal government ought to exercise general control.

B. I prefer regulation.

C. Only if half is too much. If so, Congress should modify existing laws after full investigation. Proportion should not be left to the caprice of each session of Congress.

D. Have never studied subject sufficiently to express opinion.

Congressman William A. Ashbrook of Ohio.

1. Yes.

2. No.

3. Not answered.

4. Undecided.

5. Yes.

6. A. Yes.

B. No.

- C. Yes.
D. Yes.



Congressman Isaac R. Sherwood of Ohio.

1. Yes.
2. Yes, provided the postal system is under competent and experienced management, and the telegraph and telephone system can be made to contribute to the revenues of the Government over and above the expense of operation.
3. This requires a very elaborate answer, and would consume more time than I can give to it at present.
4. I do not think it would be practical, so far as the Alaskan railroad is concerned, as I think it would be a losing game and have thought so all the time. I voted against the bill when it was considered by the House.
5. That would require the opinion of an expert, but I should say the Trade Commission should determine whether a trust has monopolistic power.
6. A. Doubtful.
C. I am in favor of the Ben Johnson plan and voted for it in Congress, which also includes D.



Congressman Charles C. Kearns of Ohio.

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. Not sufficiently informed.
4. Never have given it mature thought. The plan seems, on its face, to be a just one.
5. Your question is so complicated I am not certain that I fully understand it.
6. A. I know of no reason why it should not be given the same right of self-government enjoyed by other cities.
B. No.
C. If given self government—yes.
D. Not answered.



THE CHOSEN LAND

Hugh J. Hughes in *Farm, Stock and Home*.

Land of our seeking from afar!
Whatever be the shock or storm
Thy self-elected children are
Among thy loyal, true and warm.
We chose thy shores to be our own,
We chose thy flag to shield our sons;
To thee our homage—thee alone!
To thee our tide of being runs.

Land of our choice, our father's dream,
Land of our sons till time shall cease;
Here, far beyond the crimson stream
Of ancient hate, we live for peace;
Nor ours to let their vision die—
Our fathers into bondage sold—
But as thy mighty years go by
To love the New above the Old.



Better a thousandfold abuse of free speech than denial of free speech. The abuse dies in a day, but the denial slays the life of the people and entombs the hope of the race.—Charles Bradlaugh.

BOOKS

KEEPING TAB ON LEGISLATORS.

The Minnesota Legislature of 1915. By C. J. Buell, 1528 Laurel Avenue, St. Paul, Minn. Price 50 cents net.

The practice of issuing an impartial report on the work of legislative bodies is one that should spread. In Minnesota such a report has been issued on the doings of the legislature of this year. This is the fourth legislature in that State that has been so reported. So Minnesota voters are fortunate in having easily available information that will enable them at any time to take note of how their representatives carried out the trust reposed in them. This book is not published for profit but is sold at cost of printing and postage.

In this latest report Mr. Buell calls attention to an encouraging fact. Repeated publicity is having its effect. "There has been great improvement in the direction of intelligence, honesty and independence. Steadily the people have been able to get more and the corporations and special interests less." And though there was much to criticise in the legislature of 1915, still the author feels justified in saying that it "has to its credit as much thoroughly correct legislation and as few dangerous enactments as any in the history of the State."

But that there is still much room for improvement will be realized on reading the report of proceedings from the election of a speaker until final adjournment. Vigilance is still a necessity in Minnesota, as it is elsewhere, and every Minnesota voter who would exercise it intelligently should read Mr. Buell's report. What has been done in reporting the Minnesota legislature should be done in each one of the other States by some one as capable as Mr. Buell.

S. D.

PERIODICALS

Anticipating Woman Suffrage.

Ex-President Taft, in a long essay in the *Saturday Evening Post* of September 11, first dismisses the notion that "the privilege and duty of voting" is "an inalienable right of American citizenship;" and then proceeds to a careful discussion of whether or not it would be better for the Government, for society and for the women that they should vote." Mr. Taft's deliberate reply is one that he has made before to other demands for democracy—Philippine independence, for instance: Some day, when they are all ready, but not today, nor tomorrow. "The longer the extension of the franchise to women waits, the better they will be prepared for it and the more good and less harm it will do." But the matter of this essay is not its chief interest. There is something

most enlightening in the thought processes disclosed by the manner of his argument. For this is really a judge's opinion we are reading; and, as sometimes happens in the opinions of the Court, legality is confused with justice; human law is used as a measure for human rights. It is all very orderly, and dispassionate, and clear—except the major premise, which happens to be false.

A. L. G.



"One of the South's Great Leaders."

Bishop Atticus Greene Haygood, of Georgia, in the beginning of its work General Agent of the John F. Slater Fund, "was not only a great preacher and a wise administrator," but "also a great and wise statesman." The Reverend G. B. Winton's very interesting sketch of Dr. Haygood's life and work, which has recently been published in pamphlet form by the trustees of the John F. Slater Fund (Charlottesville, Va.), is supplemented by several pages of extracts from his books and speeches—paragraphs that prove their author to have been one of those Southerners—not so rare as sometimes asserted—who could see the Negro problem as one of human justice and set about its solution with the aid of common sense.

In 1880 in his book, "Our Brother in Black," now out of print, he had this to say about the education of the Negro: "I will not entangle my argument with the question of the relative capacity of the white and black races, nor will I speculate about the African's capacity for 'high culture.' My argument has nothing to do with these questions; let the schools and colleges make out of him the utmost that it is in him to make. Then let the world measure him by what he does. If any fear that he will, when at his fullest growth, be too great a man, let them grow, or organize an 'exodus,' and find a place where they will be free from his overshadowing greatness. My argument concerns his education in the three 'R's. If anything in the world is settled, it is settled that the Negro can learn to read, to write, and to 'cipher.' And he learns well and rapidly. I want no proof beyond what I have seen with my own eyes and heard with my own ears. He can learn a good deal more, but these parts of knowledge he must learn for his safety and ours. These are the keys; give them to him and let him unlock all the doors of wisdom he can. This is fair; it is wise; it is necessary; it is right." And this about social intercourse: "The Negro is a neighbor. . . . It is important to both races that their relations be not only friendly but mutually helpful and affectionate. If this Negro be a bad man, with false views, corrupt sentiments, vicious habits, and evil associations, he is a constant menace to peace and good order. Neither more nor less a menace on account of color, but a menace on account of his character. . . . 'But,' says the irrepressible one, be he Northern or Southern, 'how about the social question?' This question indicates a sort of hysteria. . . . There never was a subject so much discussed that has so little in it, except, it may be, the invention of perpetual motion. It gives no trouble to either race when let alone. People of good sense, good breeding, and of unmeddlesome temper do let it alone."

A. L. G.

Peace Advocates in Europe.

Emily Greene Balch in *The Survey* (New York) of September 4, writes of her journey as a member of the delegation from the Hague Congress of Women to the Scandinavian countries and Russia on the same mission as that of Miss Addams and her party to the other European capitals. In Copenhagen, Christiania, Stockholm and Petrograd the message of these women was officially and unofficially given respectful consideration. "What was planned as a comparatively formal presentation of the resolutions of our congress developed into something more than this," writes Miss Balch. "Never again must women dare to believe that they are without responsibility because they are without power. Public opinion is power; strong and reasonable feeling is power; determination which is a twin sister of faith or vision, is power. When our unaccustomed representatives knocked at the doors of the Chancelleries of Europe there was not one but opened. We were received gravely, kindly, perhaps gladly, by twenty-one ministers, the presidents of two republics, a king and the Pope. All, apparently, recognized without argument that an expression of the public opinion of a large body of women had every claim to consideration in questions of war and peace." In the same number of *The Survey* is an instructive article by Mary Chamberlain—who went to the Hague Congress for The Survey and afterward visited England—on the attitude toward the war, of representative British political, religious and women's organizations.

A. L. G.



Living Under Pressure.

Under *Current Comments* the *August Century*, speaking of the movies, says: "It seems possible that the stage is to suffer permanently, as the book has suffered, from the nervous restlessness of a speeded life that distracts from a concentrated attention and makes serious listening, like serious reading, an effort that few can endure." The expression "nervous restlessness of a speeded life" is good. Do we not, all of us, acknowledge that it is a pretty fair description? There are few people it does not seem to fit. We live in a fidgety, choppy, super-ambitious age. Everybody works and plays under pressure. One of the worst manifestations is seen in most of our so-called education. The poor teachers have so many things to teach in a given time that they and, of course, the children are under nervous tension the whole time in which they are together. If the intellectual life begins that way no wonder that it is ruined for all time for quiet thinking.

JAMES H. DILLARD.



A Georgia magistrate was perplexed by the conflicting claims of two negro women for a baby, each contending that she was the mother of it. The judge remembered Solomon, and, drawing a bowie knife from his boot, declared that he would give half to each. The women were shocked, but had no doubt of the authority and purpose of the judge to make the proposed compromise. "Don't do that, boss!" they both screamed in unison. "You can keep it yourself."—Case and Comment.

157 More Subscriptions Wanted from the Pacific Coast States Before September 30

In a Singletax Conference Campaign, I aimed to get five hundred subscriptions, each for three months.

So many friends co-operated by mailing subscriptions to Mr. Todd's office in San Francisco or by giving them to me personally at the Conference, that I was able to send in, between August 8 and September 8, 332. Eleven more have come in since my return, making a total of 343.

This is so near our five-hundred goal that we ought not to let it go at that. One hundred and fifty-seven more are wanted to round off the total to 500. Will those who intended to co-operate but didn't, please get busy. You are the necessary reserve force!

One subscription (with the booklet announced in our circular of August 5), 25c; four, \$1.

STANLEY BOWMAR, Manager.

P. S.—While in this Pacific Coast Campaign, we reserve the right to refuse subscriptions from workers in States that do not border the Pacific, that right will probably not be exercised. Try it.

The Gorgas-Johnson Pamphlet

I have had printed, for free distribution, one hundred thousand copies of "Public Sanitation and the Singletax", by Surgeon-General William C. Gorgas and Professor Lewis J. Johnson, and, for a short time, will furnish to readers of The Public who will send them to their local doctors, as many copies as can be used in this way. E. B. SWINNEY, 90 West Street, New York City.

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