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Editors, 1898-1913: LOUIS F. POST AND ALICE THACHER POST

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## EDITORIAL

### A Way to Stop Conscription.

The systematic efforts of Lord Northcliffe and a few sympathizing Tories to lay England under conscription could be brought to a sudden end by a counter stroke from Labor. Let organized labor throughout the country demand with all its might the conscription of wealth, and little more will be heard of the campaign for the conscription of men.

S. C.



### Conscription and Patriotism.

British trade unionists show true patriotism in threatening resistance to impending conscription. If the government will not offer sufficient inducements to men to volunteer, then it has no right to compel them to fight. Those who would rather endure the consequences of defeat than fight to avert them are surely entitled to their choice. If the institutions of a country are not such as its citizens would care to fight for, then conscription can only make the people think still less of them. Governments which enforce military service confess thereby that they have cause to fear that the people do not think them worth fighting for.

S. D.



### That International Loan.

It may not be out of place to remind the American bankers who are considering the billion-dollar loan to France and England that this country has already gone on record as being opposed to the use of force to collect debts from defaulting governments. It is entirely within the range of possibilities that the losses incident to this war may be so great as to compel a scaling down of the national obligations when peace returns. Repudiation is an ugly word; but so is war that may make it necessary. And it is entirely within the realm of possibilities that the men who are fighting the battles will have a few words to say to their own statesmen before assuming the financial burdens. It is scarcely likely that all of the unprecedented

things connected with this war will be confined to the fighting.

S. C.



### A Reason for Congressional Inefficiency.

The chief reason why Congress does so many things that it should not do, and leaves undone so many that it should do, is because that body is subject to the law that the whole cannot be wiser than the sum of all its parts. A Senator has protested against the proposed billion-dollar loan to France and England on the ground that we should not let this money go abroad at this time, first, because we need the money here to move our crops; second, because our own government may have to borrow it; and third, because we should lend it to the South American countries. These are all good Congressional reasons, but are a little faulty in the normal world. To begin with, it is expressly stipulated that the money is not to be sent abroad, but is to be held here to pay for goods bought in this country. This means merely that our merchants will sell goods to those countries on credit, and receive interest on the deferred payments. It is a sound business proposition, providing the security is ample. In the next place, the money not having gone abroad, it is not unlikely that our own government will be able to borrow enough to tide it over, in case of need. And lastly, South American countries will also be able to secure here all the money they can furnish security for, and pay interest on. With these exceptions the proposition of the Senator might pass muster on 'Change; and without them it is a fair sample of Senatorial economics.

S. C.



### Criticising Our Foreign Policy.

Complaint is heard in some quarters that America has no foreign policy; and having no set purpose in view, and no fundamental principle to rest upon, her great power is lost. This is of the same essence as the oft-repeated criticism of our foreign representatives. It is true that this country has no school of diplomacy, and shows a shameful disregard of civil service; but if methods are to be judged by results it must be confessed that in view of the deportment of certain ambassadors since the beginning of the war our own representatives abroad may plume themselves upon the contrast they offer. And as for consistency in our foreign policy it should be borne in mind that to aim steadily at one point, regardless of whether it is right or wrong, is a simpler matter, and more easily pursued, than merely to oppose the wrongdoing of others. America has no foreign policy in the sense of inflicting its will

upon other nations; but it has a foreign policy in standing for the rights of man throughout the world. It is no part of American statecraft to aid in maintaining the balance of power in Europe, nor to aid or hinder Russia in getting a warm water port, but it is of vital importance that the rights of Americans on the high seas be respected. It thus may happen that we oppose one nation at one time, and another at another time, not through any dislike or hatred for the nation itself, but merely to restrain it for the time being from imposing upon us. Being the ally of no nation, we are upon friendly terms with all, save for the necessity now and again of interposing an objection to an encroachment upon our rights. This may not be a consistent foreign policy, judged by European statecraft, but it is nevertheless a foreign policy; and, all things considered, America has been reasonably consistent in maintaining it.

S. C.



### Spigot Economy.

The attempts of the British government to economize in public expenditures, that resulted in the laying off of 1,700 persons engaged on the land valuation, still troubles the admirers of real democratic England. The great fundamental principle involved in the famous budget of 1909 depends for practical execution upon this land valuation. And it has been the expectation of many that the government, in its present strait, would have recourse to this great fund to defray the expenses of the war. But that there has been a turning aside from this purpose would seem to be indicated by the present move. For the government to stop the salaries of the clerks and others engaged in this great work, while allowing to run undiminished the enormous pensions of former government officials, is most disquieting. George Lansbury, speaking of these pensions in the London Herald, says:

Ex-Lord Chancellors all take their £5,000 a year. Dear old Lord Halsbury, who in nine years has drawn a total of £45,000 as pension, still continues to economize by taking £5,000 a year as a reward for about ten years' service at £10,000 a year, which means he has taken a total of £145,000 for ten years' work and nine years' rest. This kind of statement can be multiplied many hundred times over—retired judges, retired viceroys, retired generals, and so on—which would give us a total running into millions a year for pensions and allowances, every penny of which must in one form or another be paid by labor and by labor alone.

It is to be hoped that protesting labor will soon be able to make its voice heard. Patriotism is an admirable thing, when accompanied by wisdom

and a sense of justice; but the man who is called upon to lay down his life for his country should see to it that the government that calls him is worthy of the sacrifice. If such pensions as Mr. Lansbury names were ever justifiable, they certainly are not at a time when the country is fighting for its life. And to continue such unreasonable expenditures, while at the same time curtailing the work that is being done in the interests of the common people is altogether inexcusable. It savors too much of the time-honored method of the tory bureaucrat who gives his attention to stopping the drip at the spigot, while permitting the flow at the bung.

s. c.



### Exit the Professional Slugger.

If State's Attorney Hoyne makes good his promise to drive the professional sluggers out of Chicago, he will deserve well of labor unions, and earn the gratitude of citizens in general. One of the chief handicaps under which unions have struggled is the odium that comes from violence accompanying labor troubles. It is not charged that more than a very few of the labor men have been connected with this violence; but it has been felt by the public that labor unions had it within their power to stop it. That there should have been a few violent-dispositioned men who looked upon the struggle between Labor and Capital as a war, in which any means was justifiable, should resort to dynamiting, as the McNamaras did, or to terrorizing innocent citizens by slugging men and destroying property, is not surprising. Such men have appeared in all human activities; but they have been a curse to every movement they have attempted to aid; and the wonder is that the labor unions have been so slow to realize it.



Public sympathy is indispensable to the cause of Labor. No strike is ever won unless it has that sympathy; and few things will do more to alienate it than the petty, sneaking practice of destroying property upon which non-union men have worked, or into which some labor-condemned materials have entered. If unionism cannot draw to itself freely the men engaged in any calling, there is something wrong in its appeal; and if it cannot conduct its campaign without resorting to violence, it cannot succeed at all. The labor leaders of Chicago, who have joined hands with the State's Attorney to drive out the professional sluggers, have made a wise move. The whole plea of Labor is for justice; and no matter what its opponents may do it must keep its hands clean.

### Business Versus Sentiment.

The Chicago Board of Education began preparations to enforce its rule against the Teachers' Federation, after it had let it be understood that it would refrain, pending a court decision on injunction proceedings. It was necessary for the teachers' attorney to call the court's attention to the matter to put a stop to the sending out of pledge cards. The breach of faith was not surprising. The universal experience of all who have entered a fight against some privileged interest is that these interests never allow mere sentiment to endanger results. Privileged business and sentiment have nothing in common.

S. D.



### A Melon-Cutting in Store.

When the United States Government gave millions of acres of land to the Pacific railroads, it gave these corporations power to levy tribute to an ever increasing extent upon all who might wish to put these lands to some use. A recent circular issued by Von Frantzius & Co., Chicago investment brokers, throws some light on the great proportions to which this predatory power has grown. Says the circular:

Your attention is called to the extensive oil land holdings of Southern Pacific and its subsidiaries amounting to something like 9,000,000 acres. The suits as filed by the government originally to recover 2,273,000 acres have simmered down to an acreage involving 89,500, including 7,500 acres on which suits were filed on the claim of fraud. The original suits were based upon the so-called mineral reservation clause, which provided that mineral bearing lands would not be patented by a railroad. The government has placed a valuation on these lands far in excess of the capitalization of the company. Some day the holder of Southern Pacific stock is bound to share in an enormous melon cutting. These lands are not figured in the capitalization of Southern Pacific nor shown among their assets.



The capitalization of the Southern Pacific is \$272,672,406. Since the government valued these lands at even a greater amount, the Southern Pacific has power, through ownership of these lands, to deprive labor of an annual amount equal to about 5 per cent on approximately \$300,000,000. It need give nothing whatever in return. There is good ground for the expectation of an enormous melon-cutting in store for Southern Pacific stockholders, the melon being an enforced contribution from the American people. But "there is many a slip 'twixt cup and lip." Perhaps before the melon is cut the people may decide to do the cutting and appor-

tioning themselves. Though the courts have confirmed the title of the Southern Pacific, the people still retain the taxing power, and can by that means take for public use the rental value of these \$300,000,000 of lands. That would put an end to the power of the Southern Pacific to command tribute.

S. D.



### Elihu Root and the Boss System.

A protest against the comment on page 874, on Elihu Root's speech, comes from a valued correspondent as follows:

I regret what seems to be an injustice to Elihu Root and the part he played in the Constitutional Convention in New York. It is, of course, perfectly true that Mr. Root has always been opposed to the Initiative, Referendum and Recall. It is emphatically not true that his attitude towards home rule is one of unrelenting opposition. It is also unfair to class Mr. Root with William Barnes in any general way. From a rather constant and close observation of Mr. Root's actions in the Convention I can say that there was no member of that body more sincere in his desire to serve the whole people of the state and to put an end to boss rule. Mr. Root fought the bosses in the convention every inch of the way. He stood for genuine home rule and for executive responsibility in the matter of appointments and finance. He made an eloquent plea for the short practice act, which would make litigation swifter and cheaper for the poor litigant. Every man has a right to be judged not by what he has done, but by what he is and is doing. He frankly admitted his connection with the invisible government, but showed very clearly that he had seen the evil of it and was ready to do what he could to put an end to the system.

It is true that every man should be judged "not by what he has done, but by what he is doing." It is good to be told that Mr. Root is ready to do what he can to put an end to the boss system. But no one does that who supports the legalized privileges on which the power of the political boss is based. If Mr. Root is ready to turn against these, then his past record should indeed be forgotten. But is he?

S. D.



### Still Postponing.

About ten years ago William J. Bryan conferred on William H. Taft the title of "The Great Postponer." At that time Mr. Taft was making speeches declaring that "it is not time as yet" for reduction of the tariff, for justice to the Philippines or for any other advance in political or economic affairs. Today he is still repeating "it is not time as yet" so far as taking formal steps are concerned. The only immediate motion he favors is in a backward direction. He would get rid at once of all that has been done during the past ten

years to establish popular government, and to restrict legalized predatory practices.

S. D.



### An Embarrassing Challenge.

A challenge which he cannot well ignore has been issued to ex-President Taft by Dr. C. F. Taylor of Philadelphia, editor of *Equity*, and the leading advocate of Direct Legislation in the United States. Dr. Taylor offers Mr. Taft a reward of \$1,000—to go to any charity which he may indicate—for the name of "any responsible advocate of the Initiative and Referendum with any following worth considering" who would "dispenze with legislative agents," or "who advocates the discontinuance of representative government in City, State or Nation." Dr. Taylor further asks that Mr. Taft name any book regarded as authority on the Initiative and Referendum which takes such a position. Since Mr. Taft in his Seattle speech declared his opinions to be based on "a study of the workings of these innovations," Dr. Taylor makes the embarrassing request of him to "point to a single State or municipality making use of the Initiative and Referendum which has dispensed with its legislative agents."



Dr. Taylor will not be required to pay his reward, since no such authority exists as he challenges Mr. Taft to produce. The former President was a victim of his own cock-sureness. His statements can only be explained on the ground that he either must have taken for granted, without investigation, the accuracy of his preconceived notions, or he must have relied for information on authority equally uninformed and prejudiced. In either case it is his plain duty to openly acknowledge his error. An honest and open confession will be creditable. To ignore the challenge, while no less a confession of error, will show a disinclination to deal candidly with those with whom he has influence. Dr. Taylor has not only placed the ex-President on trial, but has performed a great public service. He has made it awkward and uncomfortable for responsible opponents of popular government to spread misrepresentation in the future.

S. D.



### Dr. Hillis' Confession.

In announcing that he has been "ruined by dreams of wealth," Newell Dwight Hillis made public the fact that he had fallen a victim to a social system, the fundamental injustice of which he had failed to see. So long as it is inevitable that some must be poor, so long is it inevitable

that people will scramble for wealth, and many will put its attainment before everything else. In that scramble, all but a few must fail. Dr. Hillis now feels concern lest he might have influenced some to strive for selfish material gain, rather than to aid their fellows. He could not have done this but for unjust economic conditions which leave no better defense against destitution than acquirement of great riches. But for such conditions he would not himself have entered a course which led him to tell his congregation—

I owe this statement, that often I have loved my books more than the poor, have loved position and office and honor and sometimes I have thought of my own interests, when every drop of my blood and every ounce of my strength and every thought of my mind belonged to our schools, to the sick, the friendless, the poor, and to the boys and girls with their eager and hungry minds.

Now that he feels it his duty to turn from such pursuits to the paths that he has neglected, let him reflect that the way to keep others from the scramble for wealth is to help in the movement to abolish the need for such a scramble. If he will preach the doctrine of social righteousness, if he will use his great talents to help abolish unjust poverty-breeding laws, he can become a great force in making the world a better place in which to live. He has still great opportunities if he will but grasp them.

S. D.



### Rockefeller's Duty.

Press dispatches say that John D. Rockefeller Jr. is visiting his Colorado mining camps "incognito" to investigate conditions. For what purpose? Is it to redress grievances as any benevolent despot might do? If so, then let him prepare for disappointment. Neither gratitude nor appreciation awaits him, such as he may consider his due. Benevolence in a despot does not atone for despotism, and can not bring to the despot anything more than insincere fawning and flattery. It is not Mr. Rockefeller's duty to become a Lord Bountiful. His duty is the just the same as that of any other citizen—that he use what power he has to abolish the legalized wrongs which make him an industrial despot. As long as he shirks this duty he need not be disappointed should he find that no charity will cover the multitude of sins that culminated at Ludlow. S. D.



### Significance of the Sanger Case.

When Justice McInerney of New York's Court of Special Sessions complimented Anthony Comstock on his work in the Sanger case, he gave his fellow citizens a measure of his own moral views. He complimented Comstock for sending a paid

agent to deliberately trap a man into violation of the law. That the agent resorted to a most contemptible trick, by playing on his victim's feelings, made the act none the less praiseworthy in the view of the Justice. And this same Justice, in sentencing the prisoner, had the hardihood to denounce him for violating the laws of God as well as of the State. Where was the pious Justice's reverence for the laws of God when he was approving the methods of Comstock and his agents? Or does he hold Comstock to be a privileged character above the laws of God? Justice McInerney seems determined to uphold divine laws even if, in order to do so, he has to uphold a violation of them.



The Sanger case is an illustration of the unwisdom as well as of the unrighteousness of laws restricting the freedom of the press. It is not necessary to enter into a discussion of the merits of the literature that Sanger dispensed, since it is not claimed that its circulation in any way infringed on the rights of any individual. No one was compelled to accept or read it to whom it was unpleasant. It was not flaunted before the eyes of any one who might take exception thereto. No effort was made to circulate it except among individuals of mature minds who wanted it. So it is immaterial what its contents were. If laws can be passed penalizing the circulation of one kind of literature, under such circumstances, then they can be passed penalizing the circulation of any kind; and if the precedent in the Sanger case be allowed to stand the danger is not remote of application of the same rule to other kinds of literature. Considering how political, social, class and religious prejudices can be, have been, and are being played upon, it behooves none to approve of this precedent, who himself holds views that others regard as harmful or dangerous. And who, that thinks at all, does not hold such views? The only safety is in absolute freedom of expression on all subjects.

S. D.



### Speech Not Yet Free.

An important part of the Walsh report of the Commission on Industrial Relations is the one describing violations by the police of the right of free speech. The report says:

On numerous occasions the police of cities and towns have either arbitrarily or under the cloak of a traffic ordinance interfered with or prohibited public speaking . . . by persons connected with organizations of which the police or those from whom they receive their orders did not approve."

Since this report was issued there have been

additional happenings of this sort. Elizabeth Gurney Flynn was prevented by a lawless chief of police from speaking in Paterson, New Jersey. "You may have the right to speak," this guardian of the law is reported to have said, "but we have the power to prevent you." If that policeman's position was sound, then all burglars, highwaymen or other violent criminals in Paterson may quote his words in legal justification of their actions.



The Chicago police have been just as contemptuous of the rights of citizens. Street meetings are continually interfered with on more or less frivolous pretexts. Though the arrested speakers are usually released by the judge when the case comes to trial, no guarantee is given against repetition of the outrage. It is the same way in many other cities. The police, or the city itself, may be liable to civil suit for false arrest, but such suits require time and money that the victim has but rarely at his disposal. What is needed is some measure of protection against police lawlessness equally open to all. Exercise of the right of free speech should not depend on the permission of policemen or of any other officials. The Walsh report urges legislation to protect that right, wisely adding in comment:

A government which can be maintained only by the suppression of criticism should not be maintained.

This true statement implies also that those who plead necessity for interference with free speech slander the government more than its most unjust critic.

S. D.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

### NEW YORK'S PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION.

Batavia, N. Y., Sept. 17.

The New York State Constitutional Convention has provided that the new Constitution shall be submitted to the voters in three sections; one section provides for woman suffrage, one relates to taxation, and the other embraces all the other amendments. The result of the convention is rather better than might be expected from the peculiar circumstances which conspired, in connection with the nomination and election of the delegates, to eliminate radical reformers, and even those with mildly progressive sentiments. Among 168 delegates, which made up the convention, there were 130 lawyers, and a large proportion of them in their private practice if not in their public policy, are representatives of corporations. Nearly all the public service corporations of the state—all the leading railroads, and all the leading traction companies—certainly had excellent opportunities to secure the safeguarding of their inter-

ests, for each had one or more of their attorneys elected as delegates to the convention. There were only six wage workers in the convention, and only three were representatives of organized labor.

The need of proportional representation was strikingly illustrated in the makeup of the convention. Only the more conservative elements of the Republican and Democratic parties elected any delegates. The split in the Republican party in 1912 put into the ranks of the Progressives nearly 400,000 voters, leaving 450,000 Republicans who supported the candidacy of President Taft. This split left the Republican party dominated by a reactionary leadership, and controlled by a reactionary organization. And, as thus controlled, the Republican party elected 116 of the 168 delegates, of which the convention was composed.

The Progressive party, which cast nearly 400,000 votes in the state in 1912, did not elect even one delegate. The Democratic party, which cast 647,000 votes in the election of 1912, was represented in the convention by only 52 delegates, and of this number 40 were from the city of New York, and controlled by the most reactionary influences within the ranks of the party. In the Democratic primary election there were two tickets. One was led by John A. Hennessy for governor and Franklin D. Roosevelt for senator. The other ticket was led by Mr. Glynn for governor, and James W. Gerard for senator. On the Hennessy-Roosevelt ticket the delegates-at-large to the Constitutional Convention were men like John Dewitt Warner and Augustus Thomas. On the Glynn-Gerard ticket were John A. Dix, Morgan J. O'Brien and men of this type. The Glynn-Gerard ticket was nominated with its 15 reactionaries. None were elected, for the Republicans carried the state by nearly 150,000 majority. But to call attention to the fact, those in favor of progressive reforms really had no candidates for whom to vote.

How completely the convention was dominated by conservative influences is shown by the fact that Senator Elihu Root, who for many years has been one of the leading supporters of "invisible government," who was one of its chief instigators, and one of its prominent beneficiaries, was actually the leader of the most progressive element in the convention. Without his leadership and influence, the short ballot amendments would have failed. He supported them in a speech in which, probably for the first time in his career, he used the words "invisible government," or acknowledged that such a thing existed. He described it, in a measure, truthfully. He declared that the government of the Constitution had been a mockery for the past 40 years, for not half the time, not half way, half the time, have we had constitutional government in New York State. The most remarkable passage in his speech was this:

I don't remember how many years Mr. Conkling was the supreme ruler in this state; the governor did not count, the legislatures did not count, comptrollers and secretaries of state and what not, did not count. It was what Mr. Conkling said, and in a great outburst of public rage, he was pulled down. Then Mr. Platt ruled the state; for nigh upon 20 years he ruled it. It was not the governor; it was not the legislature, it was not any elected officers; it was Mr. Platt, and the capitol was not here, it was at 49 Broadway.

Of course, the Senator did not bring his confession

down to date, because had he done so, it would have been necessary for him to have confessed that invisible government never had a greater triumph than in the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1914. He did not bring his confession down to date, because, had he done so, it would have been necessary for him to have named William Barnes as the man who now counts, as Senator Conkling and Senator Platt used to count.

Senator Root in his speech represented party patronage as the "goal of invisible government." But those who best know of invisible government know that its ultimate object is privilege—privileges for favored corporations and contractors employed by the State.

The wage workers of the State who are affiliated with the New York State Federation of Labor presented a memorial to the convention, which was most creditable to organized labor. It asked for 24 amendments to the Constitution, to secure, among others, the following reforms: The initiative; the referendum; the recall; the election of all judges; the abolition of party emblems from ballots; the election of judges separately, when no other officers are chosen; trial by jury of all criminal prosecutions, including cases of contempt of court; the election of state senators annually; the election of delegates to the Constitutional convention separately, when no other state officials are chosen; the abolition of capital punishment; the eight-hour day for all state employees; the separation of the labor department from the workmen's compensation department; authorizing the state to insure workers against sickness, old age and unemployment as well as accidents; providing that any act which one person may legally do, may be done by two or more in concert; and further asking that the Constitution declare that labor of a human being is not a commodity.

The convention refused favorable action on all these propositions.

The memorial protested against the short ballot as a violation of the fundamental principles of justice, democracy and freedom, because it arbitrarily creates 17 departments, which cannot be, hereafter, for 20 years, either consolidated or rearranged, and neither can new departments be formed or old ones abolished.

The memorial asked for the woman suffrage movement, for an amendment authorizing the state to regulate manufacturing in tenement houses, and for an amendment authorizing the extension of the workmen's compensation act to include occupational diseases. It also asked that the salaries of members of the legislature should be increased, and that the power of the governor to accelerate legislation by emergency measures should be curtailed. These requests were granted, and these are the only amendments which the Constitution contains embodying any progressive reforms.

The amendment relating to taxation is avowedly intended to increase taxes on personal property, and if it is adopted, no single tax law could be passed except by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the legislature. Section two of the tax article says:

The legislature shall prescribe how taxable subjects shall be assessed, and provide for officers to execute laws relating to the assessment and collection of taxes,

any provision of Sec. 2 of Art. 13, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Section 2 of Article 13 provides for the election locally, of county, city, town and village officials. The taxation amendment is therefore especially aimed to check and prevent local option in taxation, the exemption from taxation of personal property, and the concentration of taxation on land values.

Those who spoke against this amendment in the convention declared that it was particularly intended to permit the introduction of a compulsory listing scheme for the taxation of personal property, under the supervision of the state, instead of local authority. Said one delegate:

If the farmer finds out that under this proposal, he may be compelled to file a list showing his cows, chickens, horses, hay, straw and farm implements; if the small shopkeeper learns that he may have to list his stock in toto; if the man of family ascertains that he may have to schedule his household furniture, from the dishpan to the piano, and that upon the value shown by such listing, they will have to pay a personal property tax, there is no doubt but the taxation article will be buried by the voters at the polls.

A campaign to defeat this amendment will give Singletaxers an excellent opportunity to advocate sound principles of taxation.

CHESTER C. PLATT.



## FREE SPEECH IN CHICAGO.

Chicago, Sept. 20, 1915.

The Singletaxers of Chicago have been holding street meetings during the last summer in the vicinity of a main thoroughfare on the north side known as Wilson avenue. This public highway runs east and west, and is intersected at one place by Kenmore street, a less traveled road. Our first out-door session was held near the northwest corner of Wilson and Kenmore, the speaking stand being an automobile placed about fifteen feet back from the main thoroughfare. This meeting did not obstruct the passage of vehicles in any direction; and the sidewalks were passable, although, of course, not so freely as usual. Nevertheless, complaints were entered.

Not wishing to stir up trouble, we discussed the matter with the police, and were told that we might try another corner, two squares distant, at the intersection of Wilson and Clifton. We accordingly adjourned to that point, and held satisfactory meetings, reaching many hundreds of Chicago citizens by voice and printed matter. But we worked only in fancied security, for beneath a fair outward seeming, trouble brewed. A lady who occupied an apartment over a place of business on the corner developed a headache, and telephoned the City Hall. Other interested parties entered complaints, and the City Prosecutor's office issued instructions for arrest if we refused to vacate the corner. Our meetings had now continued for nearly two months, and the populous neighborhood was thickly planted with seeds of singletax.

In the meanwhile, the police had suggested that we return to the original location, but that we place our automobile farther back from Wilson avenue on the quieter Kenmore street. We did so. The first night under the new arrangement, a large crowd soon gathered; but it was orderly, and there



was ample room for pedestrians to move along the sidewalk; while on the street the passage of vehicles was not obstructed. Nevertheless, the speaker was hardly under way when a gentlemanly officer appeared with the demand that the meeting be closed.

"What was the trouble? Were we blockading the street?"

"Well, there had been complaints by property holders, and headquarters had issued orders to arrest if the meetings were not stopped."

"Could we go somewhere else in the neighborhood?"

"No; the orders were that we could not speak anywhere in the VICINITY OF WILSON AVENUE."

We thereupon refused to stop speaking or move elsewhere. The officer then went to a telephone and called up the precinct headquarters. Soon a gentlemanly sergeant of police appeared, who repeated the demand of the first officer and was met by the same refusal. The speakers of the evening, however, did not resist or object when informed that they were under arrest. At this juncture, the sergeant said that he did not feel like calling the patrol wagon and that we might go to the station in our machine. Like the first officer, he then resorted to the telephone, after cautioning us to await his return. He presently came back and said, "Go on with your meeting. You're not blockading the street or the sidewalk, and you're not disorderly."

The moral of this story is that the police act from "higher up." The street officer looks to the sergeant; the sergeant looks to the lieutenant; the lieutenant is next to the captain; the captain hears from the chief of police; and the chief confers with the prosecutor and the mayor; while high over all these graded officials and functionaries is PROPERTY. We were told by the police that certain property holders had entered complaints. This was not strange, considering that we had had a great deal to say about the nature of "property." The interesting part of it was to see with what an air of sacredness, piety and finality the police invoked the magic name of "property." Everybody is learning in these days that property is concentrating in fewer and fewer hands as time rolls on. It isn't the orderly and silent crowds that want us to get off the streets. It is "property" that makes use of the police in order to bluff us out of our constitutional rights just as far as we will consent to be bluffed. And when we refuse to stop speaking, it appears that an arrest is not an arrest. Verily, the times are progressing; the world moves; eternal vigilance is the price of liberty; the police are all right; and there is even yet a God in Israel.

LOUIS WALLIS.



## IN CALIFORNIA'S IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Modesto, Calif., Sept. 14.

Mrs. Joseph Fels and her party had intended to take the coast route from San Francisco to Los Angeles; but, on learning that by going on the San Joaquin Valley route they would have an opportunity to visit the irrigation districts of the State, a change was made in the program. They arrived in Modesto on Sept. 3, having traveled some eighty miles from Sacramento on two electric railways. Mr. F. L.

Wisecarver, Secretary of the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, met the party with autos, and the afternoon was spent in driving about the Modesto Irrigation District.

In this district no land was idle. Every acre was producing some fruit or vegetable. The diversity of the farming made the trip very interesting. The farmers here raise five and six different products on twenty acre tracts. A row of raisin grapes will be followed by a patch of alfalfa, then corn, next canteloupes, peaches, beans, berries of all kinds, garden vegetables and many others that cause a constant change in the scene, so that one is never tired of driving about these farms.

We saw one section that seven years ago was a vast wheat field of 1,700 acres which now is covered with beautiful homes and has an attendance of 114 children at its public school. Mrs. Fels and Daniel Kiefer were picking ripe almonds off the tree in the orchard, and all of the party ate them. They became the providers of the party, and Mrs. Fels gathered some ripe canteloupes from the vines, which we all enjoyed.

The Modesto Chamber of Commerce had delegated Mr. Sol. Elias, one of its members, to read a paper at our Joseph Fels Fund and Singletax Conference at San Francisco. In that paper Mr. Elias laid stress on the fact that the exemption of improvements and personal property from taxation, and the collection of the revenue of the district by a tax on the value of the land, had tended to cause a subdivision of the lands of the district, and brought great prosperity to the town and country. Mr. Elias visited Mrs. Fels at the Hotel Modesto, and in conversation at the table said that the Singletax had its disadvantages as well as its advantages; that it was not entirely good. Mrs. Fels asked him what this bad effect was. He said that the exempting of improvements from taxation caused men who had money to invest to take a chance that they would not take if the improvements should be taxed. As a result two new hotels had been built in the town, when there was need for but one, and neither hotel prospered.

Mr. Elias also said that the exempting of buildings from taxation caused many persons to erect dwellings for rent. As they are of modern construction, tenants moved out of the old dwellings, leaving them vacant. These vacancies reduced rents in all dwellings and, as a consequence, land values in the town have gone down and a lot can be purchased now for less than before, although the population had increased. Mrs. Fels told Mr. Elias that she did not consider the reduction of rents and of land values an evil condition.

During the evening a meeting was held in the public square of the town, which had been arranged for by the Socialists. Mrs. Fels, Dr. John W. Slaughter, Professor Earl Barnes and I spoke. Much interest was manifested by those present and many questions were asked, especially by the women. During the day a visit was made to the office of the irrigation district. Mr. Charles Abbott, who has been Secretary of the District for twenty years, told that in the beginning land and improvements were assessed. In 1911, the owners of the land, who lived in the District, had, by vote, adopted the Singletax for irrigation purposes. They are so well satisfied



with it that they would not go back to the old system, which they call "the double tax." Modesto has more small homes about it than any other city of its size in California, due to its system of taxation.

EDWARD P. E. TROY.

## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

### THE CASE OF PROFESSOR COMMONS

Manhattan, Kas., Sept. 15.

In its issue of September 10 *The Public* prints an editorial criticising the "shortcomings" and "illogicalness" of the Commons' report in attributing the industrial unrest of America to the "breakdown in administration of labor laws" and for having as a cure nothing better to recommend than a "commission to administer these laws and to act the part of a benevolent despot in industrial affairs," this same commission furthermore to be maintained with funds secured through a "graduated inheritance tax." In the same issue also is published a letter from Mr. M. C. Burke of Alabama pertinently calling attention to some other and more progressive tax views held by Professor Commons two years ago, and who likewise expresses "keen regret" that the professor's excellent opinions of the year 1913 did not more deeply color his present contribution to the report of the Industrial Commission.

I wish to emphatically register a protest, not at the severe but at the extremely mild language in which these criticisms are made. Prof. Commons knows full well the underlying cause of the growing industrial unrest of the country. Indeed, for more than twenty years, as is perfectly evident from his previous writings, he has thoroughly appreciated the fact that monopoly of natural opportunities and not inefficiency in administration of labor laws or other similar agencies, is basically responsible for the swelling ranks of jobless men and women, the enlarging armies of underpaid and overworked human beings, the virtual slavery that is to be met with in many parts of the country—Colorado, for example—the ever-widening chasm between the rich and the poor, and the constantly recurring clashes between capital and labor. And not merely is the distinguished professor fully aware that land monopoly is the fundamental cause of these abnormal conditions, but he is fully aware of the true remedy to be applied.

Lest it be thought that these charges are not based upon substantial ground, I desire to quote a few brief passages from his book, "The Distribution of Wealth," published by the MacMillan Company in 1893. In speaking of the "Right to Employment" (Pages 79-80), he says:

Though the slave was compelled to work, he never suffered from that terrible evil of the modern laborer, lack of work. With the coming of freedom, the laborer was divorced from his means of livelihood, and now that all available land has become private property, and all capital is private property, the propertyless man is a dependent when work is plenty, and a vagabond when work is slack. Of what use to him are the centuries of struggle for the right to life and the right to liberty, if he is denied the right to produce for himself the food, and clothing, and shelter that preserve life, and that make liberty worth having? The rights to life and liberty

are practically denied to laborers in our day, by virtue of the denial of the right to employment. There is, therefore, pressing upon us, the claim for recognition of this new and higher right, belonging to man as a man, by virtue of the very dignity of the manhood that is in him. The claims of justice rebel at the dictates of law which have reduced the earth and all the opportunities for livelihood to the private possession of one-third of the race, and thus compel the other thirds to be either wage slaves or paupers. The right to work, for every man that is willing, is the next great human right to be defined and enforced by the law.

Thus did the celebrated economist twenty-two years ago logically analyze and dwell upon the social defects which the present Industrial Commission has clearly shown to be rapidly gnawing away at the very foundation of our society.

Passing on to his "Conclusion" chapter (page 249), we find as an opening sentence:

The so-called conflict between capital and labor is at bottom a conflict between capital and labor on the one hand and the owners of opportunities on the other.

And in closing his valuable book he states:

Tax reforms should seek to remove all burdens from capital and labor and impose them on monopolies. Public policy should leave capital and labor and business ability free and untrammelled, but endeavor to widen and enlarge the opportunities for their employment.

Here, then, is unimpeachable evidence that the honorable gentleman has long known the underlying cause of the social disorders of the land and the simple yet sovereign method by which they may be corrected. But why, in preparing his report, he should so utterly ignore the great truths which he formerly advocated, particularly when Chairman Frank P. Walsh, in conjunction with Commissioners John B. Lennon, James O'Connell and Austin B. Garretson in their report so strongly emphasized them, is entirely beyond my comprehension. For this reason I wish to again earnestly protest against the moderation with which he is being criticised. That Professor Commons should now, at this critical time, remain so surprisingly silent regarding the logical views which he previously held and should waste his time in recommending such superficial measures as a commission to administer labor laws, etc., does not seem to be merely a matter of defective reasoning; on the contrary, it appears to be one of the most flagrant examples of disregard of one's own convictions that has ever come within the range of my observation!

EMIL O. JORGENSEN.

## 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 21, 1915.

### Mrs. Harriman to Make Separate Report.

Mrs. J. Borden Harriman of the Commission on Industrial Relations announced on September 18 that she would make a special report dealing

with economic conditions of women. Her report will say:

The principle of a fair day's pay for a fair day's work figures little, and the cost of living figures less, in determining the wage level for women in industry.

Argument concerning the relation between conditions menacing the welfare of women in industry and social unrest is not necessary. It would require a reckless optimism to contend that several million wage earners, working at rates indisputably below those which men could, or would, accept, were not a menace to the wage scale or that large numbers of women working with equipment and under conditions prejudicial to their physical organization, are without social and industrial significance.

But it is necessary to call attention to the fact that because of the youth of the large majority of wage-earning women and the comparative brevity of their industrial life, they lack the solidarity necessary to make effective protest.

Women pass from industry into homes of their own to become mothers of well-born or ill-born children. These latter go back to the mills, factories, offices and stores to take the places of those retreating from the battle for bread.

Whether each turn of this human spiral leads to a higher or lower plane of physical, mental and moral life depends largely on the conditions under which women work.

[See current volume, page 858.]

#### Chicago School Affairs.

Arguments in behalf of the plea for an injunction to restrain the Chicago Board of Education from enforcing the rule against the Teachers' Federation were made before Judge O'Connor on September 15, 16 and 17. The injunction is asked on the following grounds:

By dismissing teachers who fail to comply with the rule refund would have to be made of their pension payments, which practically would destroy the fund.

Expense incurred through enforcement of the rule would have to be borne by the taxpayers.

There is nothing in the principles of any of the organizations prohibited by the rule inimical to the discipline and efficiency of the schools.

The right of seven members of the board to sit as members, since their terms have expired, is attacked.

The rule strikes at the pension fund, which is created by a state law, mandatory in requirements that teachers shall be members thereof.

Teachers virtually are under contract with the board.

Enforcement of the rule deprives teachers of rights guaranteed them by the constitutions of the United States and the state.

A decision is expected on September 22. [See current volume, page 907.]

The rule had been adopted by the board on September 1 by an 11 to 9 vote. The members in favor were Rothman, Loeb, Peterson, Clemenson, Otis, Eckhart, Holpuch, Schlake, Kruetgen, Vosbrink and Sethness. Those opposed were Son-

steby, Lipsky, McMahon, Warning, Britton, Metz, Pietrowicz, Gallagher and Collins. In spite of an agreement to delay preparations to enforce the rule pending injunction proceedings, employees of the school board began sending blank pledges to abide by the rule to the teachers. This was stopped by a warning from Judge O'Connor, after about 700 blanks had been sent out. Only a few of those who received them would sign.

At a mass meeting of teachers on September 18, pledges to the amount of \$5,000 were secured to carry on the fight on behalf of the Federation, Mrs. Ida Fursman, president of the Federation, announced that of 7,000 teachers in Chicago, 3,869, or considerably more than half, are members of the organization in good standing. On September 19, Margaret A. Haley, business agent of the teachers, was re-elected to the legislative board of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and another member, Mary O'Reilly, was put on the executive board.

A bill asking the annulment of the appraisal of one of the school lots at 6 South State Street, was filed on September 15, by Attorney Angus Roy Shannon of the Board of Education. The lot was valued ten years ago at \$360,000, and rent was fixed at 5 per cent of this amount. This year the official appraisers, Judge Jesse Holdom, Bertram Winston and S. W. Straus, reduced the valuation to \$322,500, although rentals of privately owned property in the neighborhood have increased. The true actual value of the property, Attorney Shannon claims is \$582,800.

When the Baldwin Senate Committee to investigate school affairs reconvened on September 15, Senators Canaday and Coleman refused to join with their colleagues in entering an executive session. Senator Baldwin, the chairman, refused to call the members in regular session. Senator Canaday further demanded that Attorney Meyer J. Stein be put on the stand to tell who his "philanthropic" friends were that were paying senators' expenses. He further demanded that witnesses for the Teachers' Federation be allowed to state their side. Until these demands would be allowed Senators Canaday and Coleman declared that they would not attend a meeting. Finally the committee separated without transacting any business.

#### Mayor Cross on Taxation.

At the meeting of the League of Iowa Municipalities at Council Bluffs on September 14, Mayor W. C. Cross, of Burlington, made a plea for Home Rule in Taxation and criticized the general property tax. Concerning the tax on merchants' stocks he said:

A little inquiry at my home city elicited the follow-

ing answers to the question, "About how often do you turn over the value of your stock?":

Hardware and furniture, once per annum.

Dry goods,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 times.

Shoes,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 times.

Drugs, 2 to 3 times.

Jewelry, once in three years.

Grocery, 3 to 8 times annually.

Meat market, once a week or 52 times a year.

From these answers we find that a jewelry store is taxed 156 times as high as a meat market having the same amount of sales, etc.

Wholesale houses turn their stocks over about three times a year, while the large mail order houses in the large cities throughout the country turn their stocks over much quicker. These latter are given a big advantage in taxation over the local merchants, as they fill many of their orders direct from the factory where the goods are manufactured which therefore do not show upon any invoice of stocks for taxation.



#### Students' Prize Contest.

Eighteen scholarships of an aggregate value of \$3,375 are offered as prizes to high school students of Cook County by the Chicago Singletax Club. Local contests for the best talks and theses on the Singletax will be held at each high school. Books and cash prizes will be awarded to the winners at these. The total number of prizes is 125. These local winners will then participate in intermediate contests before the club. The winners at these will compete for the scholarship prizes, which have been donated to the club for this purpose by the educational institutions. They are as follows:

From the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery: First prize, Full course in Medicine and Surgery or dentistry; value, \$450; three second prizes, three half courses in Medicine and Surgery or Dentistry; value, \$225 each; three third prizes, three quarter courses in Medicine and Surgery or Dentistry; value, \$150 each.

From the De Paul University: One four-year scholarship; value, \$400.

From Glenn Dillard Gunn: One scholarship in Instrumental Music; value, \$400.

From the Chicago Law School: First prize, One scholarship for a three year Course of Law; value, \$225; second prize, One scholarship for a one year Commercial Course of Law; value, \$75.

From the Berlitz School of Languages: First prize, One scholarship in class lessons to the value of \$150; second prize, One scholarship in class lessons to the value of \$70; third prize, One scholarship in class lessons to the value of \$38.

From the Maclean School of Dramatic Art: One scholarship to the value of \$180.

From the Bryant & Stratton's Business College: One scholarship for one year of Day School to the value of \$100; one scholarship for nine months of Night School to the value of \$30.

From the Gregg School of Shorthand: One scholarship for six months of shorthand, valued at \$65.

This list may be increased since negotiations for more prizes are pending. Information may be had

from the club's secretary, E. J. Batten, 508 Schiller Building.



#### Arctic Discoveries.

Vilhjalmar Stefansson, the Canadian explorer who was last heard of April 7, 1914, under circumstances that led to the fear that he had been lost, reported from Herschel Island August 22, via Nome, Alaska. The net result of this long struggle above the Arctic Circle is the discovery of extensive land 78 degrees north and 117 west. The explorer followed the coast line a hundred miles only, on account of the lateness of the season. From a mountain 2,000 feet high 20 miles inland, still higher land was seen at a distance estimated at fifty miles. Caribou and other arctic animals, except bear, were abundant. Stefansson has renewed supplies at Herschel Island, and will remain another year. [See current volume, page 164.]



#### Mexico.

At the conference in New York on the 18th, between Secretary of State Lansing and the diplomatic representatives of the South and Central American countries, it was agreed that some faction in Mexico should be recognized as soon as possible. Another meeting will be held in Washington in three weeks at which a decision is to be reached regarding the recognition. The statement given to the public says:

The diplomatic representatives resolved to communicate to their respective governments that in their judgment the time has now come to carry out the policy agreed on at the conference of the 11th in the face of the impossibility of recognizing a de facto government springing from the common agreement of all the factions. . . .

Each government shall itself judge such capacity and recognition will likewise be extended by each government separately at such time as it may deem proper. Recognition will naturally entail as a result of the appointment of diplomatic representatives accredited to the head of the government recognized.

The American diplomats hold that in adopting this resolution . . . they have merely exercised in the most judicial manner possible the indisputable international right of taking the preliminary step toward the recognition of a de facto government . . . vested in all governments without thereby interfering . . . in the internal affairs of Mexico, an interference which has not at any moment been contemplated.

It has always been the sense of the conference that the pacification of Mexico is a question to be exclusively decided by the Mexicans themselves, and it trusts that a government recognized by all governments of the world will be able to attain that result and assure the welfare of the sister countries.



Conflicts between Mexicans and American soldiers and civilians along the Texas border con-

tinue with increasing bitterness and many killings. [See current volume, page 909.]



#### Haiti.

The United States Government has formally recognized the new Haitian government headed by President D'Artiguenave. This action is expected to hasten the adoption of the new treaty between the two governments, which gives a virtual protectorate to the United States. [See current volume, page 883.]



#### European War.

The German forces have compelled the Russians to evacuate Vilna, the second place of importance in Poland after Warsaw. The Russian forces began to withdraw on the 19th, but the Germans have extended their enveloping arms so far to the east that it is still uncertain whether the retreat will be wholly successful. Further advance on Riga awaits the completion of the Vilna movement. The Austro-German forces operating through Brest Litovsk have succeeded in crossing the Pripet marshes and taking Pinsk, an important Russian post one hundred miles east of Brest Litovsk. At Dubno, a little north of where the line crosses into Galicia, and in Galicia itself the Russians have assumed the offensive, and have stopped the Austrian advance. Cabinet changes at Petrograd and the program of the liberal elements have been delayed by the act of the Czar in proroguing the Duma. It is reported that the Czar has granted amnesty to all political prisoners, numbering it is said, 100,000. [See current volume, page 909.]



No changes of importance are reported on the western front. Heavy cannonading continues without cessation. A determined attempt of the forces under the German Crown Prince was made to break the French lines at the forest of Argonne, but without material gain. No action of moment is reported on the sea, aside from a gradually lessening number of torpedoed merchantmen. The German government makes the positive claim that the Hesperian was not torpedoed by a submarine, and infers that the vessel was sunk by a floating mine. Accounts brought by passengers from England state that in the recent Zeppelin raid the air ship succeeded in reaching the heart of London, and dropped bombs in the vicinity of the Bank of England. A block of buildings was burned by a fire from the bombs, and a number of civilians, men, women and children were killed. Curiosity rather than fear controlled the crowds in the streets who watched the intruder during the ten minutes that it was illuminated by the searchlights. Anti-aircraft guns shelled the Zeppelin with shrapnel until it disappeared in the clouds, pursued by aeroplanes.

Large re-enforcements from Great Britain, France and Italy are reported to be landing at the Dardanelles. This, together with the attempts of the Germans to relieve Turkey, is thought to presage a vigorous offensive by the Allies.



The Balkan States again rise to the center of interest. Bulgaria, which has so long played the Allies against the Teutons, has been called upon by the Allies to define her position. Turkey has granted to Bulgaria the land through which runs the railroad to her newly acquired port on the Gulf of Enos; but the Bulgarian government protests that it is under no obligation to Turkey. It was announced on the 20th that German forces had begun an attack on Serbia at Semendria on the Danube, a short distance below Belgrade. This is taken to indicate the intention of the Teutonic forces to drive through Serbia, and cross a friendly Bulgaria into Turkey. Some French and British forces are said to be aiding the Serbians. This action may precipitate a final alignment of the Balkan countries. Bulgaria has insisted upon having Macedonia and a better port on the Aegean, Kavala being named. Serbia has expressed a willingness to cede Macedonia providing she is given a port on the Adriatic through northern Albania. Italy objects to Serbia's having a port on the Adriatic, and Greece is slow to cede Kavala or other good port on the Aegean. The eagerness of the Italians and Greeks to prevent Germany from relieving the Dardanelles may be sufficient to complete the halting negotiations with Bulgaria. It is assumed that if Bulgaria does take the part of Germany, Roumania and Greece will go to the aid of the Allies.



All indications point to an indefinite continuation of the war. The British Parliament has granted the government a new credit of \$1,250,000,000, bringing the total since the beginning of the war to \$6,310,000,000. The daily expenditure now exceeds \$17,500,000. Agents of France and Great Britain are in the United States negotiating a loan placed at first at \$1,000,000,000, but subsequently reduced to eight hundred million, or less. Conscription continues to be a contentious question in Great Britain, but no decision has yet been arrived at by the Cabinet. France has called out 400,000 reserves composed of youths 17 to 18 years of age; but these will not be put in the active service before a year has elapsed.



When a religion is good, I conceive that it will support itself; and when it does not support itself, and God does not take care to support it, so that its professors are obliged to call for help of the civil power, 'tis a sign, I apprehend, of its being a bad one.—Benjamin Franklin.

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## NEWS NOTES

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—State-wide Prohibition was adopted in South Carolina on September 14 by about 20,000 majority.

—Emerson C. Harrington won the Democratic nomination for Governor of Maryland at the primaries on September 14. Ovington E. Weller won the Republican nomination.

—The Conservatives in Prince Edward Island Assembly had their majority reduced to 4 by the election on the 16th. The marked gain of the Liberals gave the government a close race.

—Receivers of the Rock Island railroad were ordered by Federal Judge Carpenter on September 14 to bring suit against the directors for recovery of \$6,000,000. [See current volume, page 839.]

—The training camp at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, opened on September 20 with 435 recruits on hand. Newspapers had announced two days previously that enlistments numbered 598. [See current volume, page 899.]

—In Passaic, N. J., the New York magazine "Fath-erland" has been excluded from the public library. The action was taken after the trustees had passed a resolution barring all controversial periodicals on matters relating to the war.

—Australia, which won world renown by inviting designs from all countries for its new capital city, and which invited the winner, Walter Burley Griffin, of Chicago, to personally superintend the carrying out of the plan, is about to take a backward step by confining the competition for designs for the parliament house to British architects.

—The opium trade in India, according to British reports, shows a marked falling off since the Chinese government in 1906 decreed that in ten years the growth and consumption of opium in China should cease. The export of opium from India to China ceased in 1913. The number of chests sold for export at Calcutta in 1910-11 was 37,560; in 1913-14 it was only 9,000. In the former year the revenue was over \$31,000,000; in the latter year it had fallen to a little over \$3,000,000. [See vol. xvii, pp. 37 and 468.]

—The Jeanes Fund, for the improvement of Negro rural schools, co-operated during the session ending June 30, 1915, with public school superintendents in 133 counties in 14 states. The supervising industrial teachers, paid partly by the counties and partly by the Jeanes Fund, visited regularly in these counties 3,463 country schools, making in all 17,312 visits and raising for purposes of school improvement \$73,438. The business of these traveling teachers, working under the direction of the county superintendent, is to introduce into the small country school simple home industries; to give talks and lessons on sanitation, personal cleanliness, etc.; to encourage the improvement of school house and school grounds; and to conduct gardening clubs and other kinds of clubs for the betterment of the school and the neighborhood.

—The average rate of wages per week in 93 of the principal trades in 41 of the leading cities of the United States in May, 1914, according to bulletin 171 of the Department of Labor, show an increase for

75 of the trades reported, as compared with May, 1913, no change in 17, and a decrease in one. The highest scales per hour paid in May, 1914, in a few of the principal trades were as follows: Bricklayers, 87.5 cents, in Dallas and San Francisco; carpenters, 65 cents, in Chicago; hod carriers, 50 cents, in Portland, St. Louis, Salt Lake City and San Francisco; painters, 70 cents, in Chicago; plasterers, 87.5 cents, in Dallas and San Francisco; plumbers and gas fitters, 75 cents, in Chicago, Dallas, Portland, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, San Francisco and Seattle; sheet metal workers, 68.8 cents, in Chicago and San Francisco; stonecutters, 70 cents, in Portland and San Francisco; structural iron workers, 70 cents, in Cleveland; freight handlers, 60.6 cents, in New Orleans; granite cutters, 68.8 cents, in New York; iron molders, 50 cents, in San Francisco; linotype operators (Hebrew, book and job), 83.3 cents, in New York; compositors (English newspaper), day work, 75 cents, in Seattle. As to changes in hours of labor, 15 trades showed a reduction of hours between May, 1913, and May, 1914, 77 reported no change, and 1 reported an increase.

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## PRESS OPINIONS

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### Rational California.

San Francisco Bulletin, Aug. 21.—Easterners worry because Californians take international questions so lightly. We are a regular hotbed of Pacificism. Nobody seems to know why. It cannot be because we are better, or worse, or wiser, or sillier than Easterners. We couldn't be. It must be partly because we are further away from the great centers of disturbance. The East is excitable because it gets the electric shock from the continent of Europe before we do. It dreams of dreadnoughts off Sandy Hook, and of invaders in spiked helmets marching up Broadway. It quivers and palpitates, just as we would do if we had to live in that remote and barbarous corner of the world. Its very wealthy class is larger than our own, and comes nearer to being an important part of the show, and this gives Eastern public opinion, as reflected in the great city newspapers, a characteristic jelly-like qualminess. California is agricultural, not industrial, and wealth is not yet concentrated here, as it doubtless will be when the Eastern idea begins to take hold. Meanwhile we think of the vast, fruitful Middle West and the great plains and the Rocky Mountains, and the thought gives us comparative peace. Peace maketh mollicoddles; mollicoddles make peace; and there stands California, in a Rooseveltian syllogism.



### A Northern Light.

News-Tribune (Duluth, Minn.), September 4.—It is believed, with good reason, that a large majority of the people of Minnesota favor singletax, as they understand it. To the average man, to whom it is not merely a name, it means nothing more than abolishing all taxes on personal property and on land improvement. This includes all the products of industry, that is, all securities, all credits and moneys, all tools and machinery, all live stock and animals, all buildings and other improvements to real estate.

The proportion of the assessment on lands and the consequent portion of taxes paid on land alone is now 64 per cent. That on buildings and improvements is 19.8, and on personal property is 15.8. To transfer all of the 35.6 per cent at once to land would be too great a change and would too much disturb land prices and economic conditions. The usual process is a gradual reduction, a step process extending over from 10 to 20 years. This would require a reduction on the assessed value of the products of industry of but 10 to 15 per cent a year. But whatever the method used, it is as certain as anything in the future, that singletax, as so understood, will soon be adopted in Minnesota, as it should be. The present system is iniquitous in its inequalities, its hardships, its promotion of falsehood, even to perjury, and its penalties on industry, thrift and ambition.



#### A Mine of Information.

The Star (San Francisco), Aug. 28.—Whether or not Congress—the Congress that will meet in December—takes any notice of the Manly report, that document will stand as a mile-stone on the road to industrial freedom. For the next quarter of a century—unless Congress does its duty—the Manly report will be the mine of information for students of and writers on social and economic conditions in this country. The findings of fact will, more than likely, be used by European writers to discourage European immigration to the United States. During the hearings of the Commission, it will be remembered, Frank P. Walsh took the public into his confidence. And one of the most striking facts is this: That it was not the so-called “reds,” not the I. W. W.’s and others of the “lower classes” who gave the most sensational testimony before the Commission.



#### The “Balance of Trade” Theory Breaks Down.

Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat, August 30.—And now there comes a new sort of bleat. Our favorable balance of trade is too high. Our reserve of gold is piling up too rapidly. New York financiers seem unanimous on these points. How is this? Have we not been assured for years by the sturdy standpaters that it was the big favorable balance of trade that was the hope of the nation? Has it not been the doctrine that everything should be going out and nothing should be coming in? And now that exports are steadily mounting while imports are relatively declining, the standpat financiers say that the “situation is alarming.” . . . The truth of the matter is that the standpat financiers are recognizing slowly but surely that it is by means of the exchange of products that the nations increase in wealth; that international bills cannot be paid for with money; that if we are to sell we must likewise buy. . . . But if that is the case, what becomes of the old standpat protection argument which contends that every time a foreign-made piece of goods is sold in this country some American workingman is robbed? Evidently these are times in which it would be highly profitable for the workingmen of the country to sit down and do a bit of thinking. It must be apparent to them that they cannot use favorable trade balances as such. What they want is clothes and things to eat. The way to get the products desired is for the American worker to produce the thing he can make

at the best advantage and trade it for the thing the foreign worker can make at best advantage. If they do that, the workers in both countries will get their products at the minimum labor cost. In other words, they will get cheaper products for the simple reason that a day’s work will have an increased purchasing power.

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## RELATED THINGS

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

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#### BOO!

##### For The Public.

If they ever should come over—  
Boo!  
And they’re such terrific rovers—  
Boo!  
Only Russians, English, Frenchmen and Italians in the way;  
Only ten or twenty millions for the Germans first to slay,  
And they’re only some three thousand and odd hundred miles away—  
Boo!  
And they’re liable to hit at Uncle Samuel any day—  
Boo! Boo!  
  
And wouldn’t it be awful if America had to run—  
Boo!  
And we couldn’t show those Germans that we had a bigger gun—  
Boo!  
May be more’n four thousand of ‘em would be landed on our shore,  
And the continent be ravaged like the realms of ancient lore,  
And of all our hundred million there’d be only left a score—  
Boo!  
Torn and worn and extirpated, every man and then some more—  
Boo! Boo!  
  
Earth and air and depth of waters all are darkened by a foe—  
Boo!  
And we all are mollicoddles if we say it isn’t so—  
Boo!  
And so Johnnie, get your gun out for those furriners over there,  
Else a thousand million of ‘em will be roosting in our hair,  
And if Germany don’t get us there are Lion, Jap and Bear—  
Boo!  
And we’ll never come out living if they take us to their lair—  
Boo-oo-oo-oo! Boo!  
HENRY SLADE GOFF.



The enlargement of freedom has always been due to heretics who have been unrequited during their day and defamed when dead.—George Jacob Holyoake.

## 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 Warren Worth Bailey of Pennsylvania.**

1. Yes. By repealing legislation under which special privilege culminates in monopolistic control of industry.

2. Yes.

3. Probably nothing additional is needed just now.

4. The author of the Bailey bill would naturally think it both practical and desirable.

5. Yes; emphatically. Failing to do so, it will fail to render any real service to the people.

6. A. Yes.

B. Most assuredly.

C. Yes.

D. Yes. Land values alone should be taxed.



**Congressman Aaron S. Kreider of Pennsylvania.**

1. Yes. By repealing present tariff laws.

2. No.

3. Not answered.

4. There are very little land values except mineral and coal lands.

5. Yes.

6. A. No.

B. No.

C. No.

D. No radical change.



**Congressman S. H. Miller of Pennsylvania.**

1. Yes. By the passage of a proper protective tariff.

2. I do not think they should.

3. Have not studied the subject sufficiently to answer.

4. In my opinion the Government should pursue the course which would encourage bona fide owners of the land to develop the natural resources.

5. No, as to last underscored [control of natural resources]. The Government should not give special aid to a trust; a railroad should not be permitted to confer an unfair advantage to a trust or to any corporation.

6. A. No. I regard it as the best governed city in the United States.

B. No.

C. No.

D. I do not know whether there are defects; but if there are they should be corrected.



**Congressman Robert F. Hopwood of Pennsylvania.**

1. Yes. Labor will be employed as soon as we restore the tariff.

2. No. The Government should not engage in further business enterprises.

3. I do not know that anything more is needed, unless it be educational rather than legislative.

4. Yes. There is no easier way to get such improvements, and it hurts no one.

5. The country needs a rest from too much tampering with business.

6. A. No. It is the pride of the Republic and should be under the control of the nation.

B. Do not know on present information.

C. Am not prepared to say how much the District should pay.

D. Not conversant with this matter.



**Congressman Arthur G. Dewalt of Pennsylvania.**

1. Yes.

2. Yes, under proper restrictions.

3. An absolute prohibition of control by private or corporate interests of the coal and timber and other natural resources which are in the line of necessities of life and general welfare, in the remaining public lands of the government.

4. Too socialistic in its tendency and too far-reaching in its consequences.

5. I think so.

6. A. Not well enough informed to say.

B. Same answer as above.

C. Same answer as above.

D. Same answer as above.



**Congressman Frank Plumley of Vermont.**

1. As the incidental result, yes.

2. Not yet, certainly.

3. A more intelligent adaptation of the existing laws is most needed.

4. Not sufficiently advised to say.

5. When it investigates, the commission should seek for the truth wherever it lies.

6. A. No, certainly not without excepting all government property and then the wisdom of it is doubted.

B. Not yet. The present methods not suited to such control.

C. Not necessarily one-half, but some fair, just and equitable proportion.



D. This should be determined as well as the answer to the previous question by a wise commission.

Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma.

1. Yes, absolutely.
2. Yes.
3. Can't answer in a line.
4. Not answered.
5. Yes.
6. A. Yes, consistently with Government rights.
- B. Yes.
- C. Doubtful.
- D. Yes.

Congressman Thetus W. Sims of Tennessee.

1. I do.
2. Yes.
3. Requires too long an answer if reasons are given.
4. I think so.
5. Undoubtedly yes.
6. A. Yes.
- B. I do.
- C. Yes.
- D. Yes.

## RUGBY, TENNESSEE—A MEMORY.

For The Public.\*

Readers of The Public know that a land site does not attain either value or interest until mankind approaches. It seems to lie dormant, storing up wealth and power so that it may fitly welcome human energy when it comes. Not the least vital feature of the 10,000 acres of land called Rugby, Tennessee, was just a man—yes, just a man fashioned in the image of his Creator. Thomas Hughes became a public character known by name on two continents. In early life opportunity had illuminated for him the splendor and mystery of this, his common origin, and that of all of his brothers and sisters, and the entire universe. Finding within himself powers unable to be satisfactorily explained in words, set him to studying the Divine power; his hungering, yearning, strenuous study was the fire that compelled his actions, comforted him under so-called defeat, and rendered him immortal—still present in the evolution of life.

Thomas Hughes originated in a class—the gentle class of England. This class owns the value the English people add to the land of England by their industry and their increase under God's law of reproduction. If anyone wants to know more about Thomas Hughes there are "Tom Brown's School Days," "Tom Brown at Oxford," "Scouring of the White Horse," which paint the times and customs which gave him his habits and impetus. In the 1840's and 50's Thomas Hughes was doing things with every ounce of his physical and mental power. He was not doing conventional things exactly, for besides trying to make an in-

come at the bar by law, he was with others strenuously endeavoring to bring an increase of justice into social relations. His fearless eyes, in those days of burning contention in the United States, read "Parson Wilbur," "Birdoffredom Sawin," and the vital appeals from Garrison and his fellow workers. When our Civil War broke out, and the English gentle class—the class that governs—leaned towards the recognition of unlimited chattel slavery and the disruption of the strongest example of national popular government, Thomas Hughes, with Cobden, Bright, Foster and many other Englishmen, got upon platforms to protest and to explain.

Were Englishmen who stood above all for justice and freedom going to hinder the side which was giving its blood and wealth to maintain under an united government the biggest and best example of popular government? Were Englishmen going to put boulders in the already difficult path of the North who were fighting to limit slavery, or to totally abolish it from American soil? They believed in, and they understood the real spirit moving the North, so they were simple and eloquent. Their simple appeal won, even where their audiences were partially starving owing to the cotton blockade. England did not recognize secession and unbounded chattel slavery.

Then in 1870 a group of Northern citizens invited Thomas Hughes to visit America, the country whose possibilities and aims he so well understood, and he came. Yes, he came, and the description of his visit sets forth that he had a lesson in true hospitality; that he made life friends of men whose books and actions had stirred his soul; that he saw a continent teeming with beauty and opportunity, and that he was handsomely paid for telling an audience in Boston how British he was, and that America should try to better understand England's, real England's, attitude during the Civil War. If any reader wants to know more, his own description is in "Vacation Rambles," pages 129 to 180, and 382 to 405.

Now Thomas Hughes, like all men striving to better understand the laws of their origin, had seen that blot, unemployment, and had felt its glaring discord with Almighty Infinity. When he was working his hardest Henry George's philosophy had not illuminated social problems. But duty towards God was compelling this just-a-man to combat unemployment the best way he knew and the hardest he could, both in the gentle class, and in the disinherited, the "laboring class." On his triumphal procession through America, with heart warmed by true human hospitality and the rich natural splendor of the continent, the mind of Thomas Hughes saw a vision. It was a vision of younger sons and relatives of the "Gentle Class" living from their own labor on this vast and teeming soil; living alongside of unfortunate unemployed of the "laboring class." He

\*By the son of Thomas Hughes, author of "Tom Brown," and founder of Rugby Colony.—[Editors of The Public.]

saw them in health and simplicity overcoming prejudice, sloth and vice, learning each from the other; the vision must have filled him as he passed through the splendid space of it. Now if anything filled Thomas Hughes, so simple and straight was he that it came right out of him in simple words so that a child could see his mental vision.

Here it may be that prejudice steps in, but I have never heard the side of those who originally sold Rugby, Tennessee. It is told that certain men saw the vision of a democratic evolving colony, or that possibility forming in the mind of Thomas Hughes; that they followed to London and added fuel to it; that they then proclaimed that they had a tract on the Cumberland plateau of Tennessee—an ideal climate, a virgin soil, a scenic splendor; 10,000 acres cheap for \$1.50 per acre. It is further said that they were out of pocket fifty cents per acre and had cold feet at that. Oh, well, paint it with the very darkest dye on the palette of prejudice, and then what? Dare a thinking man throw a rock at the sellers? Dare he say that they were less sincere than were Thomas Hughes and his friends who bought? Were they less humanity's well wishers? Who will say it? Anyhow a noble lord's factor went to the Cumberland plateau and viewed that land; he returned to report it "an English deer park" with mineral possibilities, besides timber and a virgin soil. Thomas Hughes and his friends bought, and the vision was planned and started of young English gentlemen laboring on their own land beside young English laboring class men assisted to the same happy position, each learning from the other, and all enjoying old country custom in sport and so on, and becoming unprejudiced God-like men.

Now England is an island, and the surrounding sea makes England moist and foggy, as well as beautiful. This rather affects English mentality; Englishmen are not so apt to look ahead and around at how their neighbors do things as are we of the West, for instance; they sort of go it alone on English plans; they are foggy about the people who live where they have but arrived—you see those native people have not ever seen England, which is a drawback.

The town site of Rugby colony was nine miles or so from the Cincinnati Southern R. R.; then they built a road from Rugby siding to Rugby, and it was a road, too, an English road. They cleared the town site, and built a hotel, which burnt down soon; a church—naturally Church of England or Episcopalian—a schoolhouse, and buildings for the "Board of Aid to Land Ownership." This made the land around \$5 per acre; the speculators had got cold feet at fifty cents, remember. Then came the gentlemen and others, just the usual bunch with fine men, and men that social chaos had rendered of small value already. And the men just arrived called the folk living

near "Natives," could not understand them, felt their condition easily traceable to their own native sin, and started in to show them. Then came enlightenment about the cost in labor of making a virgin soil addicted to scrub pine, and so on, yield food. There followed reaction, boredom, bad whisky, typhoid fever, caused by ignorance, etc. Then followed loss of money to the investors, ignorant accusations, and finally a moribund existence for Rugby, fired at times by visions of grape culture on a large scale, of brick clay, of coal, oil, etc., which should redeem the loss. Let us draw a veil over the picture, merely remembering it as another example of how human laws and custom can waste good intentioned human effort; of how the aid to land ownership is rank blasphemy, however fine may be the intention, compared with an effort to bring about equality of opportunity to use land, by taking the value of each bald site as compared to other unimproved sites for society, whose industry and growth is the producer of land value.

One word more. Thomas Hughes met defeat through his life standing; he always looked hard for his error and forgot the punishment, which made it far less hard on him. But the failure of Rugby nearly downed him; it would have but for that absorbing study of his as to how one can become worthy of one's high heritage. I never heard him blame anyone but himself for the failure of Rugby; I never agreed with him about Rugby, but indirectly Rugby, Tennessee, brought it about that I got to really know Thomas Hughes, to understand his point of view; also it brought it about that in any significant decision or action he sits perched upon my shoulder as it were, freely expressing his open, manly, lovable point of view. In my human weakness I declare Rugby, Tennessee, to be a sad memory; but when I think straight then I call it a blessed memory.

GEORGE HUGHES.



## MY UNKNOWN WAY.

Sam Walter Foss.

Mayhap it stretches very far,  
Mayhap it winds from star to star;  
Mayhap through worlds as yet unformed  
Its never-ending journey runs,  
Through worlds that now are whirling wreaths  
Of formless mists between the suns.  
I go—beyond my widest ken—  
But shall not pass this way again.

So, as I go and can not stay,  
And never more shall pass this way,  
I hope to sow the way with deeds  
Whose seed shall bloom like May-time meads,  
And flood my onward path with words  
That thrill the day like singing birds;  
That other travelers following on  
May find a gleam and not a gloom,  
May find their path in pleasant way,  
A trail of music and of bloom.

## BOOKS

### UNECONOMIC TAXATION PRINCIPLES.

**Principles of Taxation.** By Hastings Lyon. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston, New York, Chicago. Price 75 cents net.

Of books on taxation by professional economists there seems no end. Professor Lyon endeavors to clear up a simple question that has been very much befogged by his fellow economists. If he has not succeeded he may attribute his failure to disregard of fundamental economic principles, a thorough knowledge of which would be naturally expected in a visiting professor of finance of Dartmouth College.

Professor Lyon devotes much space to discussing how taxes should be levied. As an expert in political economy one might think he would have little difficulty in showing that all service, whether furnished by a single individual or a collection of individuals, should be paid for by those receiving it in proportion to the value of the benefit conferred. But somehow he seems to have forgotten this and devotes much space to discussion as though a very abstruse problem had been presented. He concludes that cost of service and ability to pay should be the principles on which a taxation system should be devised. This leads him to favor the general property tax in the main, with some deviations. Finally boiled down, his views are found to be practically the views of those unselfish owners of intangible personalty, who present excellent and unanswerable arguments to show why their property should receive lenient treatment from taxing authorities, but are blind to the fact that there are just as good reasons for exempting many other kinds of property which they do not happen to own.

The Singletax, increment tax and local option in taxation receive such consideration from the professor as must logically follow disregard of economic principles. He finds the same reason for differences in land values in New York City and Texas as for the difference in value of a beef carcass in the two places. The expense and labor of bringing the carcass to New York City, items which do not figure in the case of land, seem to have slipped the professor's memory.

He doubts that forcing of land into use would produce equality of opportunity, because "no capital would be immediately available to make use of the land." So here we have one presumed to be an economic expert solemnly telling us that there might be a situation where capital would be in demand, where labor would be free to use the resources from which capital can be produced and yet—because this capital would not be available

until it had been produced—the opening of opportunities to produce it would not help. Furthermore this same economic expert fails to explain why that capital would not be available which now finds opportunities scarce for profitable use.

While the book can not well be considered educational, it can be fairly recommended as entertaining. Its points are briefly and clearly stated. The economic student who has grasped the fundamental principles of that science will be surprised or amused on noting the glaring deviations from these principles by one in Professor Lyon's position. The book is simply an addition to an already long list of examples which illustrate the kind of reasoning that must be used in defense of a bad system of taxation.

S. D.



### A SPENDTHRIFT MUNICIPALITY.

**Bankrupting a Great City.** By Henry H. Klein. Published by the author, Tribune Building, New York City. Price in cloth, 75 cents net; in paper, 40 cents net.

A story of events leading to the insolvency of New York City and the bankrupt sale of municipal property is graphically told. The only part of the story that does not seem based on some actual occurrence is the insolvency and sale. The greater part is about corruption and extravagance that are matters of more or less accurate history. It does seem as though Mr. Klein had underestimated the financial strength of the city. He represents it as becoming bankrupt with a debt of \$1,100,000,000 and annual expenses, including interest, of \$255,000,000.

Bad as such a state of affairs undoubtedly must be, it seems as though New York could bear more of a burden than that without becoming bankrupt. However, that fact is made clear by the author in the latter part of the book, wherein he attributes the inability of the city to raise sufficient funds to the limitation of the tax rate to two per cent on real estate and to what he regards as insufficient taxation of personal property and of franchises.

Mr. Klein recounts many things which, if accurately presented, justify criticism. But his presentation of some things on which one need not be conversant with New York's affairs to pass might lead to doubt concerning the others. Thus he says in one place:

The mayor maintained in office a Tax Commissioner whose inclination was for Singletax; that is, a tax on real estate only instead of on real estate and personal property.

It is possible that Mr. Klein did not wish the term "Singletax" to be understood as referring to the measure proposed by Henry George, which the present Tax Commissioner is known to favor. In that case he must have had a different commissioner in mind. If, however, he actually believed himself to be accurately describing the

Singletax as a tax on real estate, then he must lack information to make him competent to pass on the policy of the Tax Commissioner, even admitting what is not the fact—that the commissioner has been led by his personal views to administer the tax system in any other way than in accordance with the law as it stands.

But this slip should not be allowed to prejudice the reader against the story as a whole. Land and franchise deals constitute so large a part of the list of corrupt and extravagant occurrences that they carry a moral which, though the author has unaccountably overlooked it, many readers will be able to see for themselves.

S. D.

"Did you know that automobiles were known and used during the Trojan war?"

"What nonsense!"

"Well, here it says in the Iliad: 'Now comes Achilles raging from the ford.'"



"Dat wasn't a bad epigram of de judge's," said Plodding Pete.

"What did he say?"

"Thoity days."

"Dat ain't no epigram, is it?"

"Sure it is. I asked a fellow what an epigram is, an' he says it's a short sentence dat sounds light, but gives you considerable to think about."—Unidentified.



Capitalist (just rescued from the water): Well, I'm much obliged to ye for hauling me out of the water, an' here's 3s. 4d. for ye, all the change I've got about me now.

Life Saver: Oh, no; 'keep your money. I wouldn't think of robbing you.

Capitalist: Not 'tall, not 'tall! 'Twould have been lost anyhow if ye hadn't rescued me.—Unidentified.



The summer visitor in the little village stopped at the Browning Circle Library. "Please give me the 'Letters of Charles Lamb,'" he requested.

The librarian was most obliging and helpful.

"I think you have made a mistake," she said kindly.

"This is the library; the post office is the building just across the street."—Post Saturday Magazine.

## PERIODICALS

### The Singletax Herald.

The first issue of the latest literary venture in the singletax field has appeared in Philadelphia under date of September 11. It is entitled The Singletax Herald and will be issued weekly. The editor is Robert C. Macauley, the place of publication is 619 Filbert Street. The price is one dollar a year. The first issue contains much interesting information concerning land values of Philadelphia. The Singletax party, lately formed in Philadelphia, receives favorable mention, and presumably the Herald will be its organ. If the first issue may be considered a criterion, the new paper will be an able and aggressive means of propaganda.

S. D.

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## What the Postman Brings

I try to at least keep up with The Public and it has been a great help to me.

BEN B. LINDSEY, Juvenile Court, Denver, Colo.

The Public is a weekly magazine famous for careful statement of fact.

THE CHICAGO "DAY BOOK."

The Public is fuller of more good things than I can assimilate.

D. C. IDOL, Belton, Mo.

If I always expressed my approval of articles in The Public I would write you frequently, for I read no more admirable paper than yours, and certainly none in which I have more confidence.

L. A. COONLEY WARD, Wyoming, N. Y.

... I have just received a copy of your journal and am very much pleased with same. It contains messages which I believe our people today are much in need of. I am herewith enclosing \$1.00 and also a list of names to whom I would like you to send sample copies.

HENRY SAUM, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

... There is one standing mystery to me, and that is how you, in the chaos of the "Loop," can maintain a perspective toward society that fits so well with mine here in the stately silence of the Cumberland mountains. I am a poor man but devoutly pay \$2.00 every year for The Public for myself and two others. This, I believe, is the least that every Single-taxer should do.

CHARLES H. TYLER, Landgraf, W. Va.

There is a weekly journal published in Chicago called The Public. It includes Lincoln Steffens and Henry George among its "advisory and contributing editors," and it follows that it is exceedingly pessimistic in its views of human affairs generally. It is not a booster; it is a knocker. It is like the horse of Sparrograss. It has "got the heavens, and got 'em bad." In its issue of August 20 it indulges in rapturous adulation of the Manly report of the Commission on Industrial Relations. It says that the report is "bristling with facts which give the lie to all claims of general prosperity." It says that "half the wage-earners are shown to be getting but \$500 a year; that the babies of the poor die three times as fast as those of the rich; that economic pressure prevents two-thirds of all children from getting a grammar school education; that one-fifth of the time workers in basic industries are out of jobs; that it is simply ridiculous to assume that there can be any approach toward prosperity without radical reforms; that 2 per cent of the people steal 98 per cent of the wealth they have earned, and that against facts like these it is vain to bring statistics of bumper crops, of bank clearings, of savings bank deposits, of trade balances or any of the other items commonly produced to make a showing of prosperity." The Public insists that "steadily increasing poverty is inevitable." As a newspaper soap-boxer The Public has Emma Goldman and Giovanetti worn to a frazzle. Anybody needing a cent's worth of high-class gloom ought to send to Chicago for a copy of it.

LOS ANGELES TIMES.

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