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a Weekly Narrative of History in the Making.

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### An Inexcusable War.

However much justification there was for originally sending troops into Mexico, there has long been none whatever for keeping them there, unless foolish pride and political expediency be considered justification. They can not catch Villa, can not protect the border as well as at home and can only irritate the Mexicans. Should war result from refusal to withdraw them, the fault will be clearly ours.

S. D.



### Mischief Makers.

The long-continued publication in Mexican papers of editorials from American papers has had the inevitable result. When the editor of a great metropolitan journal ponderously proves that President Wilson is a sissy, that he would not resent any imposition, and that even if he wished to do so the country is absolutely unprepared to resist so much as an army from Haiti, we smile, and reflect upon the methods of politicians. But these editorials when translated—freely—into Spanish, and properly emphasized with large type, are taken seriously by their Mexican readers. Is it any wonder they think they can whip the United States, and wish to try?

S. C.



### High Time for Intervention.

From the standpoint of those Americans who would enslave and exploit the Mexican people, it is high time for intervention. From the standpoint of interests which have cause to fear the effect on American public sentiment of an economic object lesson in Mexico, intervention is equally desirable. The same is true of those back of the preparationist movement who wish nothing so much as to draw the attention of the American people away from economic questions. To leave the Mexican revolution unmolested may prove disastrous to the greater bandits who have plundered the Mexican people in a legal manner and to similar interests in the United States. How great this danger is may be realized on taking note of

what is going on in the State of Yucatan, where armed opposition to the revolution has ceased.

In an official manifesto Governor Salvador Alvarado of Yucatan has declared in promulgating an agrarian law:

In consideration of the fact that no one is exclusive owner of the land in like manner as no one can be exclusive owner of either the light or the atmosphere—this law responds to a mandate from the people and satisfies a social necessity, making it unavoidable and inevitable.

On this principle the law provides that

Every Mexican or foreigner residing in the state, older than 17 years, has the right, provided that he wishes to dedicate himself personally to cultivate it, to possess a parcel of land, from which, by means of work, he may be able to obtain sufficient in order to subsist with his family, succeeding by such means in securing his economic independence and the necessary comforts for living peacefully, according to his social condition.

Then follow the details for distribution of the big estates among cultivators. Title remains with the government, and holders must pay 2½ per cent of assessed value as rent. From a scientific standpoint the law is by no means perfect, and is far more complicated than it need be. But it has transformed Yucatan from a land of masters and chattel slaves into one of prosperous workers. Mexicans will enjoy under it more freedom, prosperity and justice than the laborers of any other country on earth, so long as these other countries maintain their prevailing system. And unless we intervene and overthrow the reformed land tenure former owners of big Mexican estates will be compelled to engage in productive occupations in order to live. Such a state of affairs necessarily constitutes a menace to American monopolistic interests. Therefore it is high time for intervention.

S. D.

### War in the Making.

Why need there be war between the United States and Mexico? The Mexicans have rebelled against unendurable tyranny; but though they have overcome their oppressors they cannot agree among themselves. The losing faction seeks to embroil this country in order to embarrass its successful rival. It is aided in this by men whose pecuniary interests are at stake. Soldiers, unable to keep the field as organized armies, have turned to brigandage, and have invaded this country. Order must be restored. Both governments desire peace; yet they are drifting toward war. Is there no disinterested agent who can step in and aid in adjusting matters? Where are the A. B. C. mediators?

S. C.

### What Is Americanism?

It would seem to be time for the people of this country to begin defining some of the words that have become shibboleths in the mouths of vote-seekers. The patriotic frenzy that has seized upon the people has caused a rivalry among the politicians as to which can express the greatest devotion to the country. But if the citizens forget to exercise their discriminating sense the real belief of the candidates is likely to be buried under a mountain of verbiage.

Mr. Hughes declares for "undiluted Americanism." But what does that mean? Does it relate to geographical, physical, political or economic conditions? Does "America first" mean anything different to an American than "Germany first" means to a German? What is there in this Americanism different from Germanism that would cause an American or a German to live in one country or the other? Since the number of Germans who have come to the United States is vastly greater than the number of Americans who have taken up their abode in Germany, it is fair to presume that something in this country appeals to men and women more than the things in Germany. It cannot be the culture and learning, for Germany has them as well as this country; nor can it be the schools and universities, its law and administration, its wealth and industry, its taxes and tariff, for all these are to be found in Germany as well as in the United States. But there are things supposed to be found here that are not to be found there. Among these are political equality, personal freedom, the right of free speech, a free press and public assembly, and free access to nature.

It is these that have attracted the German to this country, and it is these that have kept the American from moving to Germany. But human rights are not self-sustaining. They depend upon the conscious volition of men and women. And the same influences that have caused special privileges to appear in Germany are causing them to spring up in this country. Judges interfere with the citizen's personal liberty through injunctions; the police arrest public speakers, and break up public meetings, the post office officials determine what newspapers may be mailed, and our practice of taxing labor values instead of land values has led to the withholding of the bounties of nature. American men and women who are the victims of these conditions cry out in protest; and the vote-seekers appeal to them on the ground that they stand for Americanism. We ask for liberty, and

they promise a larger navy. We ask for economic justice, and they offer a larger army. Is this the new conception of Americanism? Are we to substitute European compulsion for American voluntarism? Are we to continue the old world system of privilege, or re-establish the new world freedom of opportunity? Shall we permit ourselves to be charmed with words and phrases, or insist upon plain terms and concrete applications? Shall we, in short, allow ourselves to be dragged back into European conditions, or shall we push on toward the American ideal of equal rights for all, and special privileges to none? s. c.



### Reducing a Movement to Absurdity.

There is more than one way of making a movement ridiculous. One unusual way was for President Wilson to lead a parade composed largely of his subordinates to impress Congress and himself with the extent of popular demand for a proposed change in governmental policy. It does not follow that this was deliberately done to make the preparedness movement ridiculous. But if such had been the intention the method selected was a rather clever one. s. d.



### Coercion in Washington.

The following notice sent to employes of the Department of the Interior is no more excusable than similar notices from private employers:

Department of the Interior,  
Washington, June 6, 1916.

Men and Women of the Interior Department:

It is my earnest desire that every one of you who believes in the policy of National Preparedness shall take part under the banner of this Department in the parade of June 14th.

To that end committees have been appointed to organize our forces so that the best possible showing shall result. I ask for them your hearty cooperation.

Those affiliated with organizations of a military character, to which separate positions in the parade have been assigned, are not expected to turn out with the forces of this Department unless they prefer to do so. FRANKLIN K. LANE.

It would not only be right but politically wise for Secretary Lane to acknowledge the wrong of such tactics, which are so inconsistent with his democratic record. The big and unscrupulous private interests, opposed to Wilson's re-election, are in a much better position than Wilson's friends to practice coercion. And it is very poor politics to set such a precedent. s. d.



### The Acid Test.

A Washington dispatch of May 27 states that since the call issued on March 15 by the War De-

partment for 20,000 soldiers there have been 36,384 applications, of which 8,141 were accepted. The call for troops applied to preparedness sentiment an acid test. Yet less than one-third of one per cent of the 10,000,000 men of military age in the United States have even tried to enlist, in spite of the fact that the number recently marching in preparedness parades amounted to hundreds of thousands—if newspaper reports are accurate. It is clear that the marchers do not themselves want military training. It is possible that they want others to get it, but it is more probable that the only reason they marched was that they were coerced or intimidated. In any event the preparedness parades have no significance whatever as far as public sentiment is concerned. They only present evidence to show that thousands of American workers are not free men. s. d.



### Woman Suffrage Unanimously Pledged.

The endorsement of woman suffrage by the Democratic convention makes it practically unanimous. Socialists, Prohibitionists, Progressives and Republicans had already endorsed it. When the question comes up in any State legislature hereafter, no member elected on any of these tickets can oppose or obstruct passage of a suffrage bill without repudiation of his party's national platform. One of two results must follow. Either suffrage bills will pass and unconstitutional amendments be submitted at the next session of the legislature in every State that needs such action, or the public will have an opportunity to learn in which party there is the largest percentage of pledge-breakers. s. d.



### Undeserved Praise.

The Democratic convention made the mistake of grossly exaggerating the results of the Underwood tariff law. That law is a great enough improvement over the one it supplanted to be creditable to the party that enacted it. But it is far from deserving such comment as the following:

We have effected an adjustment of the tariff, adequate for revenue under peace conditions and fair to the consumer and to the producer. We have adjusted the burdens of taxation so that swollen incomes bear their equitable share.

As a matter of fact, the Underwood law is not fair to anyone, and does not make swollen incomes bear their equitable share of taxation. It may be "adequate for revenue under peace conditions," but it gets the revenue by unfair means. It lays taxes on consumption, and no tax on con-

sumption can be fair to either consumer or producer.



In regard to making swollen incomes bear their equitable share of taxation, the income tax has so far secured \$80,000,000 of revenue in one year. Since the total receipts of the Federal Government amount to more than a billion dollars annually, a payment of \$80,000,000 out of swollen incomes can certainly not be considered an equitable share—even if the entire income tax came from swollen incomes, as it does not. And even if an income tax that does not discriminate between earned and unearned incomes would be equitable—as it is not.

S. D.



### A Splendid Platform Plank.

It is not probable that many delegates to the St. Louis convention realized the full meaning of the platform plank on conservation that declared for a policy in regard to natural resources

**Which shall not withhold such resources from development, but which, while permitting and encouraging their use, shall prevent both waste and monopoly in their exploitation, and we earnestly favor the passage of acts which will accomplish these objects.**

If the party could be depended upon to faithfully and literally fulfill that pledge, then all its blunders and other shortcomings could be easily forgotten and forgiven. A literal construction of it implies the opening of all unused resources to those who would use them. It means removal of the cause of unemployment and poverty. Even though the convention had none but public lands in mind, a faithful carrying out of its pledge would do more to make the country prosperous than any other prospective legislation. But will the promise be kept?



There is a bill before Congress now, held up by the Committee on Public Lands, which if passed would translate this pledge into legislation, so far as public lands are concerned. It is the Crosser bill, which opens remaining government lands to the unemployed. It guards against waste and monopoly by providing for retention of title by the Federal Government, to which settlers shall pay the annual rental value of the land and be exempt from taxation on their labor. If the Democratic members of the Public Lands Committee want to convince the country that the party's platform pledge has been sincerely given, they will report the Crosser bill out at once with a favorable recommendation, and their colleagues in both houses will pass it promptly. But have they such a desire?

The fact is that though the convention may have had only public lands in mind, it did not say so. It would have stultified itself if it had. If monopoly of public lands by private individuals is a bad thing, which the Democratic party frowns upon, so also must be monopoly of other lands. Else why should the party pledge itself to guard against such disposal of remaining public lands? If our existing private land system is a good one, why should the party promise to guard against extension of some of its features to public lands? So this plank is a promise to legislate against land monopoly wherever it exists. It is a promise to favor passage of acts for the District of Columbia, and for all States and Territories, which shall stop the withholding of lands from development, encourage their use and prevent both waste and monopoly. To privately monopolized lands the Crosser bill, or one similarly drawn, cannot well be applied. But there is a practical way to deal with them by shifting all taxes upon land values so as to take through taxation the rental value of land for public use. If Democratic legislators were to realize and respect their moral obligations, steps to apply such a measure would be taken wherever the party has control.

S. D.



### Should Be a Sphinx No Longer.

Unless Charles E. Hughes intends to pussyfoot he will state unequivocally whether or not he would make military service or training universal and compulsory. He will also state whether or not he favors intervention in Mexico, and whether he thinks that is what should have been done before. The Republican platform says rather plainly that there should be immediate intervention. But Mr. Hughes in his acceptance disclaimed harboring a policy of aggression or lust for territory. There he apparently contradicts the platform, but there should be no guesswork as to his position. Until he makes a plain statement the only safe conclusion for voters is that his position is the one most dangerous to the public interest.

S. D.



### Choosing Sides.

Now that the conventions have been held, the platforms drawn and the candidates named, the citizens have begun the task of estimating the advantages of the alternatives offered, and the better course to follow. Political contests, like military campaigns, generally proceed by indirection. They attain their objective mainly by flank attacks. Issues are drawn in such vague and general terms that little that is definite is to be expected from an observance. It is not the goal

marked by the platforms that counts, so much as the direction in which the parties are going; for, despite candidates and declarations, every party pursues a more or less consistent course through a term of years. Thus the Conservative party of Great Britain stands for imperialism, conscription and all manner of legal and hereditary privilege; while the Liberals are more inclined toward democracy. The policy of neither is clearly defined, and the exigencies of politics may at times find them changing sides; but their courses are sufficiently consistent to warrant the imperialist, and those of kindred beliefs, in allying themselves with the Conservatives.



A similar distinction is to be made between the Democratic and Republican parties. The Republican platform consists mainly of a general condemnation of the acts and policies of the Democratic party and the Administration. Whatever has been done was wrong; all that should have been done was evaded; and the Republican party promises to undo the one and accomplish the other. The Democratic platform "points with pride" to what the party has already done; and it promises, if given a new lease of power, to continue its course. It must be confessed that the quality of its democracy is somewhat strained. Yet it can rightfully claim some accomplishments that are a credit. The new tariff, imperfect as it is, is better than the old one. The Federal Reserve act has put some order and stability into banking. The Federal Trade Commission may be able to modify some of the evils that spring from legal monopolies. The restraint of injunction-addicted judges tends to the restoration of personal liberty. The rural credits act will relieve some farmers of one of their burdens and will do something toward convincing them all that it is monopoly, and not the lack of credit, that holds them back. The seamen's act removed the final vestige of legal involuntary servitude. And, altogether, the action of the party, as parties go, compares favorably with that of its predecessors. It had been hoped during the past three years that Congress or the Administration would show a greater appreciation of the real and fundamental evils underlying present conditions. But this was not to be. Such a manifestation must await further education.



The choice of sides this year would seem to lie in the general course, rather than in definite promises, of the parties. The mass of citizens make no choice; they vote by habit; but the intelligent voter will consider the tendency of events. If he cannot have a positive good, he will at least

choose the lesser of the two evils. The Public has never been the organ of any party. It has been, and still is, a journal of fundamental democracy. But while holding to the philosophy of political and economic liberty it has always felt itself free to support men and parties that seemed most likely at the time to make for justice. And in espousing the cause of the present Administration it does so in the belief that it is choosing the best available means of aiding the cause of real democracy. It would seem that President Wilson, in spite of a regrettable leaning toward too much preparedness, will nevertheless be much more moderate in his program than Mr. Hughes. His past actions, contrasted with his opponent's words, would indicate that he is the more likely to keep out of the European war. And if Mexican intervention must come he is more likely to conduct it with a view to preserving the rights of the citizens of that unhappy country, as well as our own. Altogether, it would seem that the cause of liberty and justice will be the better served by supporting Mr. Wilson and such candidates of the Democratic party as are in accord with him.

S. C.



### Tax Juggling.

Apologists for the system of taxation in vogue in this country say it is based upon the citizen's means and ability to pay. If this were true in fact, it would be false in economics; but it is not true even in fact. The direct tax laid upon real estate may be placed roughly at two per cent, while the average tariff tax is above forty per cent. Thus, a citizen with property valued at \$5,000 would pay \$100 in taxes; while the citizen who owned no property at all, but consumed \$250 worth of imports taxed at the rate of forty per cent, would pay \$100 in taxes. To the degree that American-made goods receive any protection from the tariff they also are enhanced in price. Hence, the proportion of income of the average worker that goes to the Government in taxes, and to the protected home producer in enhanced prices due to the tariff, is out of all proportion to his ability to pay. And when it is remembered that the greater part of the tariff revenue is derived from goods consumed by the poor the gross unfairness of the system may be realized.

S. C.



### Two Dromios.

A good many people in Chicago had come to look upon Mayor Thompson as the champion political bungler of the city; but the recent action of Jacob Loeb, his appointee to the presidency of

the Board of Education, in securing the repeal of the merit rule for the hiring of teachers, places that worthy in the field as a close rival. It will be recalled that Mr. Loeb forced through the Board a rule to disband the Teachers' Federation. This rule was set aside by the courts. Now he has succeeded in forcing through the Board by the bare necessary eleven votes—when several members were absent—a rule terminating the service of the teachers at the end of each school year, and necessitating the employing of the whole force anew. By this means it will be unnecessary for the Board to discharge a teacher; it will merely refuse to hire. The ostensible reason for the change in the rules that have been in operation for twenty-five years is to rid the service of unfit teachers. But ample provision was made for this in the old rules. The teachers were marked for efficiency by their principals, and marked secretly; and if the work fell below a certain grade the teacher was dropped from the force. There was, however, this qualification: the teacher had the right of a trial, in order to meet false charges. Such a rule could not well be used to get rid of the teachers who were members of the Federation; the trial might disclose the animus behind the charges. The new rule removes all such danger. The teachers will not be hired for the new year.



Men do not go to such lengths for nothing. What is the motive back of this action? Why, in these days when such efforts have been made for improving the public service, should the whole school system of Chicago be thrown open to the spoils mongers? There may be several reasons, but the one that stands out above all others is the determination to destroy the Teachers' Federation. Jacob Loeb has set out to "get" the Federation; if rules guarding the schools from spoils hunters are in the way, so much the worse for the rules. But why should Jacob Loeb and his political allies be so eager to destroy the Teachers' Federation? The answer is not certain, for he has not taken the public into his confidence; but it does not require a Sherlock Holmes to deduce the fact that water is wet.



The Constitution of Illinois requires the taxation of the capital stock of corporations. No assessor or taxing body in the State observes the law. Yet there is a constant complaint on the part of the taxpaying public because the law is not observed; and there is a test suit now pending in the Chicago courts to compel its observance. What has this to do with the School Board and the Teachers' Federation? Let the Board answer.

The public knows only that the dominant faction of the Board is known to be in sympathy with these tax-dodging interests, and that the backer of the suit to compel the taxing bodies to carry out the provisions of the law is the Teachers' Federation. That the Federation means business may be inferred from its action fifteen years ago, when it compelled the taxing of the traction and other companies. That the Loeb members of the Board wish to "get" the members of the Federation is evident from its rule prohibiting teachers in the employ of the Board from membership in the Federation. Can anyone fail to see this chain of connections? The business interests now escaping taxation control the Board of Education. Their tax immunity is threatened by the Teachers' Federation. The Board of Education suspends the merit rule in order to drop the members of the Federation. What could be simpler, or more effective—or more diabolical? The question is: What are the citizens of Chicago going to do about it?

s. c.



#### Democracy in School Management.

The apparently endless fight to save the Chicago schools from those entrusted with their care shows the fallacy of the demand in other cities for an appointed school board not directly controlled by the voters. The Chicago board is an unsalaried appointed body. Members are not removable after appointment has once been confirmed. All this has made it easy to get a board controlled by invisible government. Elected school boards, in cities where they are elected, have been far from perfect. But none has made a worse showing than Chicago's appointed board, and none is likely to be as dangerous. The reform most needed is that enactments of a school board be subject at all times to the referendum, and members be subject to popular recall, no matter how they may be selected, or whether the board be a large or small one. Democracy is as correct a principle in government of the schools as in every other public matter.

s. d.



#### For the Vacant Judgeship.

Governor Dunne could make no better appointment than that of former Judge Edward Osgood Brown to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Burke. He has not only all the qualifications conventionally required of a judge, but the far more important one in addition of being a fundamental democrat. His appointment moreover would be a clear case of the office seeking the man—and finding him.

s. d.

### Authors as Trade Unionists.

Trade unionism appears to be on the point of becoming respectable. So long as unions were composed of men who worked in overalls, the starch-shirted members of society treated them as one of the unpleasant products of democracy; but since school teachers, government employes and city officials, actors and others of the professional and clerical class have joined them their organization has taken on a new aspect. True, doctors and lawyers have long had their unions; but these, in the minds of their members, were different. Though they involved all the clannishness and intolerance of the most bigoted union, they never failed to emphasize the difference between a profession and a trade. But necessity has compelled the recognition of economic law. One after another of the professions has realized that after all labor is labor, and that the difference between employer and employe is just as marked in the laboratory and study as it is in shop and factory.



Unions as unions will do little directly to solve the economic problem, but indirectly they may do a great deal. They have already been instrumental in awakening the so-called laboring class to social consciousness, and alliance with them will tend to arouse in the professional guilds a sense of social consciousness; both will be brought to a fuller sense of brotherhood, and the necessity for just economic conditions. That professions such as teaching, acting and writing should feel that their interests lie with the American Federation of Labor rather than with their immediate employers measures to some extent the enormous economic pressure of today. And the more these professions are detached from fellowship with the beneficiaries of Privilege the more quickly we shall have economic justice; for this melting away of the great mass of dependents who have hitherto stood between the people and their right of free access to the bounties of nature will leave the iniquity exposed in all its injustice. It is in this, as in other special privileges, their strength lies not in the number or power of those who really profit by them, but in the number and power of those who mistakenly think they profit by them. Time was when authors depended for a living upon the favor of some prince or nobleman, and few were the champions of human rights; now authors receive their pay from the mass of the people, and many are they who have taken up the people's cause.

S. C.

### Unemployment a Social Disease.

That the jobless man's condition is due rather to social than to individual causes is proved by the state of the working classes in England during the present war. The going of large numbers of regularly employed men to the front, together with the enforced expenditure of capital in ways not only demanding skilled labor but more unskilled work than in peace times, has had the effect of suddenly creating new jobs. England's army of tramps and workless men has accordingly dwindled away to very small proportions. Now, if it be true, as comfortable folks have proclaimed for years, that there is no need for unemployment and that the jobless man has only himself to blame, how shall we account for the changed condition of English labor? An army of men who were out of work in July, 1914, are now busily engaged earning a living. If the jobless man has only himself to blame, then there must have been work for these men before the war. But surely, it must be apparent that the change is one of social conditions and not of the individual workers.



The reduction of England's margin of unemployment by the war ought to be a lesson to all students of these problems. It is the unemployed and the partly unemployed who disorganize the labor market. When there are fewer jobs than there are men—when opportunities for work are limited—there is no use in urging the laboring classes to be "willing to work." And, on the contrary, when jobs are multiplied, the vast majority of unemployed people will be drawn into the field of active labor without any urging, just as air goes into a vacuum. So long as two-thirds of the landed area of the United States is held out of use on speculation by people whose exclusive titles to the surface of the earth are protected by the police, it is a mockery to blame the unemployed for being out of work. And so long as we tax labor and capital while refusing to tax land monopoly, the labor problem is bound to become worse from year to year.



But reverse the present system. Put all taxes on land monopoly while untaxing labor and capital. Then there will be a change in external conditions which will have the same effect on labor as that which has recently taken place in England—only in a more marked degree. The army of unemployed will dwindle away, and we shall approximate a condition of things in which every man who wants a job can find one, and in which the wages of labor will rise as the competition of men

with each other for work becomes less fierce than it is now. Unemployment is primarily a social disease and not an individual problem.

LOUIS WALLIS.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

### ALL MINNESOTA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION.

St. Paul, June 19.

The All Minnesota Development Association, composed of representative men from every county in the state, met in St. Paul June 14 and 15.

I was a member and decided to bring before the committee on resolutions a demand for "legislation to reduce taxes on buildings, improvements and all implements of industry." The question was fully discussed for about an hour by the committee and finally adopted unanimously.

No one really objected to the principle involved, but one or two thought it would be better to postpone action until the next meeting, in December, just before the Legislature would convene.

I was rather inclined to concede and not press the matter; but a prominent farmer, who was a member of the committee, urged action now, saying he believed the people were in favor and ready.

Dean Woods, of the State School of Agriculture, strongly urged immediate adoption, as did also Eli Warner, a prominent Republican politician and director of the St. Paul Civic and Commerce Association.

The idea of untaxing industry is strong in Minnesota.

Among the questions sent out to all legislative candidates in Minneapolis were the following:

"What would be your attitude toward:

I. Increasing the personal property exemption from \$100 to \$200?

II. Reducing the taxes on building structures and improvements to a lower per cent of their value than upon land?

Out of all the answers received only two were unfavorable, and neither of these men is at all likely to be elected.

C. J. BUELL.

### THE GRADED TAX IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Pittsburgh, Pa., June 17.

Significant victories for the land value tax movement have been won both in Pittsburgh and Scranton within the past few weeks.

Our "graded tax law" was made a distinct issue in Pittsburgh in the May primary election in connection with the candidacy of Senator Charles J. Magee, running for re-election to the State Senate, with the result a victory by a decisive majority. It was Senator Magee who led the fight in the 1913 session of the Legislature for the defense of the graded tax law, when the present mayor took up the agitation for the repeal of this progressive measure. This action of Senator Magee's was made the basis for an attack upon him from certain quarters in the local campaign, but the challenge was readily accepted and the Senator made his stand for the graded tax law a chief plank in his platform and submitted his record in this matter to his con-

stituents as an argument for his re-election. The city administration made a special effort to defeat Senator Magee, and under all the circumstances his victory is particularly gratifying. In the district which he represents his nomination on the Republican ticket is practically equivalent to election, so the present Pittsburgh tax plan is assured of a staunch friend in the State Senate for the next four years. Senator Charles J. Magee is a brother of the Hon. William A. Magee, now a State Public Service Commissioner, who, as mayor of Pittsburgh in 1913, had so much to do with the passage of the graded tax law.

Our Scranton victory is no less important, and gives great encouragement to the work of the League in the State. The Scranton Board of Trade, at its regular June meeting, gave its unanimous endorsement to the Pittsburgh-Scranton graded tax law, this action following a strong recommendation of its Municipal Affairs Committee, of which Attorney H. C. Hubler is chairman. This is a forward step of special significance because of the apparent lack of interest in that community heretofore. On my first visit to Scranton, which was about two months ago, I could find no traces of a Singletax organization or movement, past or present, and discovered that the citizens of the town were scarcely aware at all that a new tax system had recently been introduced; this condition being partly due, of course, to the fact that, up to 1916, only a change of 10 per cent had been made in the shift from improvements to land values, and the effects had not become so obvious as yet as to demand their attention. However, as the result of our efforts in Scranton, we are now assured of hearty co-operation, and, with the support also of the Allied Boards of Trade in Pittsburgh, are in a strong position to resist any attack that may be made in the 1917 session of the Legislature. The subject is receiving generous publicity now in the Scranton daily press and public sentiment is being aroused to sustain the law and permit it to become fully operative. The 50 per cent reduction in the tax rate upon improvements, provided by the act of 1913, will become effective in 1925, if the law remains undisturbed, the shift being made gradually, at the rate of 10 per cent every three years.

The recent speaking tour of J. J. Pastoriza, Houston Tax Commissioner, arranged by the League for this state, was of real educational value, and representative audiences were reached at very successful meetings in Pittsburgh, Erie, Johnstown, Altoona and Philadelphia.

Immediately following this, the League gave a dinner to Mrs. Fels at the Fort Pitt Hotel. She has enrolled as a member of the Pennsylvania League.

P. R. WILLIAMS.

### DENVER'S CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT.

Cambridge, Mass., June 12, 1916.

In the news columns of The Public of May 19th it is reported that Denver had voted on May 9th to "abolish the commission form of government." Thinking that this might be a misleading statement of the case, I wrote to a well-informed fundamental democrat of Denver for further particulars. His reply under date of June 6th has just come. It

should be of such interest to your readers that I report it to you for publication, if you think it worth while. It runs as follows:

Yours of May 29th relative to our recent charter election indicates that the newspaper reports must have been misleading, inasmuch as they made it appear that Denver had abandoned Commission Form of Government.

You are correct in your surmise that a good deal of the charter remains unchanged. The Preferential System of Voting, the Initiative, Referendum and Recall are retained. Four Commissioners, now known as Managers, and a Mayor, are substituted for the five Commissioners that were formerly in control of the city's affairs. One of these five Commissioners was designated Mayor, but having no veto power and no authority greater than the others, he was merely a figurehead. This part of the charter has been amended and the people have gone to the other extreme, conferring upon the Mayor extraordinary power. He names the four Commissioners designated Manager of Revenue, Manager of Safety and Excise, Manager of Improvements and Parks, and Manager of Health and Charity. These are the executive departments.

The important modification that has given color to the charge that Denver abandoned the Commission Form of Government, is the provision ostensibly depriving the Commissioners of Legislative functions, a Council of nine members having been created by the recent charter amendment. Its duties are purely legislative. This feature, however, was not even considered in the campaign. The voters did not give any heed to the provisions of the proposed amendments. There were three of them on the ballot. The one proposing a return to the old system of mayor and council and other city officials elected by the people was most overwhelmingly defeated; another proposing a form of government patterned after that of Cleveland was almost as badly defeated; and the third plan adopted by 8,000 majority was opposed by more than 22,000 voters.

There were many issues involved, and the merits or demerits of Commission Government had little or nothing to do with the result. It is true that the Commissioners were very unpopular, and all of them had been opposed to Commission Government originally. Three of them sought openly to discredit it. Of the five Commissioners that were first chosen three years ago only one had favored the change. This Commissioner was defeated a year ago, and an enemy of the Commission elected to his place. Three of the old Commissioners have been reappointed by the new Mayor as a reward for helping him to power.

The wet and dry issue, a school controversy, appeals to religious prejudices, and a carefully concealed plan to deprive the people of a chance to obtain control of their water supply had more to do with the election than had the desire to change the form of Government. Two years ago Colorado went dry but Denver gave a majority against prohibition. It was generally expected that the new Mayor would wink at violation of the prohibitory law, and the liquor interests are hoping that he may help them to secure a modification of the State law in the coming State election, when they propose to submit a measure to the voters that will allow breweries to operate in the State. One of the amendments proposed through the connivance of the Mayor-elect was fathered by a man who has taken a leading part in an anti-Catholic crusade, and who has been prominently identified with the school middle here. This amendment produced a condition that you can readily imagine had very little to do with the success or failure of Commission Government. In addition to all this was the disgruntled political element that wanted to get back at the trough.

If I may add a comment of my own—it would be interesting to know why Denver, with election ma-

chinery particularly well suited to secure officials acceptable to the majority, contrived to suit herself so ill as my correspondent states in his fourth paragraph. One may venture to guess that the difficulty was due partly, if not wholly, to needlessly inadequate means of getting trustworthy information into the voters' hands. At all events it is worthy of note that Denver was wise enough not to blame the preferential ballot for these troubles and that the change in the Denver charter leaves unimpaired the machinery for democratic control of city business, including the initiative, referendum and recall, as well as the preferential ballot. Denver is, therefore, still enviably equipped to correct any mistakes she may make and continue her leadership in progress towards a full realization of democracy.

LEWIS J. JOHNSON.



## PROSPECTIVE SETTLERS IN ARGENTINE WARNED.

Buenos Aires, May 24, 1916.

Just a few lines to put you and your readers on their guard. A financial group—hailing, it is said, from your end—have approached the Argentine Government for the "concession" of 100,000 hectares of land (say 250,000 acres) upon which they propose to settle 1,000 American families.

Now it will be well that The Public should let it be known that of the settlers who came to the Argentine to the Welsh colonies only one group got the freehold of their lands. Those of the settlement known as the "18 de Octubre," after a 30 years' struggle, have, in the great majority, migrated to Australia. In the Argentine they could not make ends meet. They were pestered with special conditions, with building and improvement regulations, with government inspectors—while they could get no title to their holdings. That, however, would have been nothing had it not been for the terrific taxes levied on everything they produced. Gradually their position became impossible, and about a year ago some 300 left Argentine for Australia, where wool, wheat, oats, sheep and cattle pay no taxes and where a fair percentage of the revenue (local and national) is raised by land taxation.

Your readers should understand that in Argentine every cart pays a tax, while every farmer pays a tax on what he produces for the right to use the road. In some provinces a tax is levied on every cart for the right to unload at a railway station, and a further tax for the right to send the product out of the province (state).

Then the National Government collects an export tax of one per cent for the right to export the product. There are that many taxes to be paid, for instance, in Entre Rios, that on well cultivated land, where a good crop is reaped, the tax on products is equal to the rental paid for the land. Contracts of rental at \$4.00 per hectare are common, and taxes have been paid up to \$4.50 per hectare.

This arises from the fact that there 85 per cent of the land is uncultivated. Where this prevails, the man who cultivates wheat or linseed pays for the upkeep of the road for the benefit of the big landholder or grazier. These graziers pay \$2.50 per cattle beast sent out of the province. A cattle

beast takes three years to get to export stage—that is, ready for the butcher. Therefore, on the average of one cattle beast per hectare is about 85 cents per year per head, while the wheat grower pays \$4.50 per year or over five times the amount of the grazier.

There is as good land in Texas as in Argentine. There are as good opportunities in Texas as in South America, and it looks as if the Texan farmers were determined to make monopoly get off the backs of the producers, by fixing the local taxation on the value of the land. Here in the Argentine we may do likewise, but it will be a long time before that point is reached. Frankly speaking, I believe it will only come after Argentine has passed through a similar trial to that which Mexico has had to face.

A reform of the tributary system is imperative. The hungry, struggling underset demand the right to work, to produce, that they may eat. Land speculators and mortgage companies hold the land locked up. Therefore, the hungry masses are becoming more and more restless. If these people do start, well, there is no telling where the matter will end. Anyway, American editors should advise American farmers to study well the taxation system of this reputed "El Dorado," before the latter let go their holdings in the land of the Stars and Stripes. No farmer should come to Argentine. Here the more a man works the more taxes he will pay. If not content with the States, Alberta or Saskatchewan will be found to present conditions that compare favorably with the States. Argentine is no place for the tiller of the soil. Some day it may be. Meantime it is not. While actual conditions prevail those who wish to live on the product of their labor had better give Argentine a wide berth.

Reform may come quickly; my opinion is that it will come; but while the reforming is going on, this republic will be a good place to be out of. As to the why and the wherefore your readers must judge for themselves. Signs of a coming storm are not wanting. That storm may pass or may burst. If it does burst the consequences will be very serious.

C. N. MACINTOSH.



## HOW NEWS IS MANUFACTURED.

Portland, Ore., June 11, 1916.

When announcing the recent "preparedness" parade all of the local papers stated that 15,000 were to participate.

By actual count there were between 5,500 and 6,500 people in the parade.

In spite of this on the day following all four of the daily papers stated in their news columns that 15,000 people were in the parade.

Why the large figures in both instances?

On Sunday evening following the parade there was a meeting in the Library Hall at which four prominent local speakers addressed an enthusiastic audience on the subject of Social Preparedness.

All of these speakers opposed militarism and urged constructive and peaceful preparedness.

There are about 600 seats in the hall, all of which were full and many people were standing.

Strange to say, the papers did not double nor

treble the number attending this meeting but their notice was meager and brief.

Our "invisible government" never "overlooks a bet" does it?

H. A. RICE.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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

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Week ending Tuesday, June 20, 1916.

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### The Democratic Convention.

The Democratic National Convention met at the Coliseum in St. Louis on June 14. There was no opposition to the renomination of President Wilson, which was made by acclamation, near midnight of the 15th. For Vice-President the candidacy of Roger Sullivan in opposition to Vice-President Marshall made no headway, and his name was not presented to the convention. Only one vote was cast against the proposition to renominate Marshall by acclamation. The ticket is thus the same as in 1912.



The only serious fight that took place was on the question of adopting a woman suffrage plank. A declaration in favor of extending of the franchise by states was finally adopted after the following proposed substitute had been rejected by a vote of 888½ to 181½:

The Democratic party has always stood for the sovereignty of the several States in the control and regulation of elections. We reaffirm the historic position of our party in this regard and favor the continuance of that wise provision of the Federal constitution which vests in the several States of the Union the power to prescribe the qualifications of their electors.



The platform eulogizes the Wilson administration saying in part:

We found our country hampered by special privilege, a vicious tariff, obsolete banking laws and an inelastic currency. Our foreign affairs were dominated by commercial interests for their selfish ends. The Republican party, despite repeated pledges, was impotent to correct abuses which it had fostered. Under our administration, under a leadership which has never faltered, these abuses have been corrected, and our people have been freed therefrom.

It then lists as creditable achievements the new currency law, the Federal Trade Commission, the Underwood law, the labor section of the Clayton law and improvements in the parcel post. It declares that this legislation has effected "the reforms which were most obviously needed to clear away privilege, prevent unfair discrimination, and

release the energies of men of all ranks and advantages." It then declares, "We must now remove, so far as possible, every remaining element of unrest and uncertainty from the path of the business men of America." It states in regard to the tariff:

We reaffirm our belief in the doctrine of a tariff for the purpose of providing sufficient revenue for the operation of the government economically administered, and unreservedly indorse the Underwood tariff law as truly exemplifying that doctrine. We recognize that tariff rates are necessarily subject to change to meet changing conditions in the world's production and trade.

The events of the last two years have brought about many momentous changes. In some respects their effects are yet conjectural and wait to be disclosed, particularly in regard to our foreign trade. Two years of a war which has directly involved most of the chief industrial nations of the world, and which has indirectly affected the life and industry of all nations, are bringing about economic changes more varied and far-reaching than the world has ever before experienced.

In order to ascertain just what those changes may be, the Democratic Congress is providing for a non-partisan tariff commission to make impartial and thorough study of every economic fact that may throw light either upon our past or upon our future fiscal policy with regard to the changed and changing conditions under which the imposition of taxes on imports in our trade is carried on.

We cordially indorse this timely proposal and declare ourselves in sympathy with the principle and purpose of shaping legislation within that field in accordance with clearly established facts rather than in accordance with the demands of selfish interests or upon information provided largely, if not exclusively, by them.

Then follows the so-called "Americanism" plank, which states in part:

We condemn all alliances and combinations of individuals in this country of whatever nationality or descent, who agree and conspire together for the purpose of embarrassing or weakening our government or of improperly influencing or coercing our public representatives in dealing or negotiating with any foreign power.

The preparedness plank states:

We favor the maintenance of an army fully adequate to the requirements of order, of safety and of the protection of the nation's rights, the fullest development of modern methods of sea coast defense and the maintenance of an adequate reserve of citizens trained to arms and prepared to safeguard the people and territory of the United States against any danger of hostile action which may unexpectedly arise; and a fixed policy for the continuous development of a navy worthy to support the great naval traditions of the United States and fully equal to the international tasks which the United States hopes and expects to take a part in performing. The plans and enactments of the present Congress afford substantial proof of our purpose in this exigent matter.

The plank on Mexico is as follows:

The Monroe doctrine is reasserted as a principle of Democratic faith. That doctrine guarantees the independent republics of the two Americas against aggression from another continent. It implies as well the most scrupulous regard upon our part for the sovereignty of each of them. The want of a stable, responsible government in Mexico, capable of repressing and punishing marauders and bandit bands, who have not only taken the lives and seized and destroyed the property of American citizens in that country, but have insolently invaded our soil, made war upon and murdered our people, has rendered it necessary temporarily to occupy, by our armed forces, a portion of the territory of that friendly state. Until, by a restoration of law and order therein, a repetition of such incursions is improbable, the necessity for their remaining will continue. Intervention, implying, as it does, military subjugation, is revolting to the people of the United States, notwithstanding the provocation to that course has been great, and should be resorted to, if at all, only as a last resort. The stubborn resistance of the president and his advisers to every demand and suggestion to enter upon it is creditable alike to them and to the people in whose name he speaks.

The government merchant marine bill is endorsed. The following is stated regarding conservation:

For the safeguarding and quickening of the life of our own people we favor the conservation and development of the natural resources of the country through a policy which shall be positive rather than negative—a policy which shall not withhold such resources from development but which, while permitting and encouraging their use, shall prevent both waste and monopoly in their exploitation, and we earnestly favor the passage of acts which will accomplish these objects, and we reaffirm the declaration of the platform of 1912 on this subject. The policy of reclaiming our arid lands should be steadily adhered to.

We favor the vigorous prosecution of investigations and plans to render agriculture more profitable and country life more healthful, comfortable and attractive, and we believe that this should be a dominant aim of the nation, as well as of the States. With all its recent improvement, farming still lags behind other occupations in development as a business, and the advantages of an advancing civilization have not accrued to rural communities in a fair proportion. Much has been accomplished in this field under the present administration—far more than under any previous administration.

The labor plank declares that the government should furnish an example to other employers by instituting for its employes a living wage, an eight-hour day, safety appliances and sanitary conditions, compensation for accidents, standards of the "uniform child labor law" for minors, proper provisions for women workers, and pensions for superannuated or disabled employes. The Seamen's act is endorsed and promises are made of enactment of a child labor law, establishment of a bureau of safety, extension of the powers of the Bureau of Mines and finally the following:

We favor the development upon a systematic scale of the means already begun under the present administration to assist laborers throughout the nation to seek and obtain employment, and the extension by the Federal government, by the same assistance and encouragement as is now given to agricultural training.

We heartily commend our newly established department of labor for its excellent record in settling industrial strikes by personal advice and through conciliating agents.

A promise is made to provide payment to prisoners of their net earnings. A pledge is tendered of alteration in the Senate rules to allow "prompt transaction of the nation's legislative business." The Philippine plank is as follows:

We heartily indorse the provisions of the bill recently passed by the House of Representatives further promoting self-government in the Philippine Islands as being in fulfillment of the policy declared by the Democratic party in its last national platform, and we reiterate our indorsement of the purpose of ultimate independence for the Philippine Islands expressed in the preamble of that measure.

Concerning the territories the platform states:

It has been and will be the policy of the Democratic party to enact all laws necessary for the speedy development of Alaska and its great natural resources. We favor granting to the people of Alaska, Hawaii and Porto Rico the traditional territorial government accorded to all territories of the United States since the beginning of our government, and we believe the officials appointed to administer the government of those several territories should be qualified by previous bona fide residence.

The suffrage plank adopted is as follows:

We favor the extension of the franchise to the women of this country, State by State, on the same terms as to the men.



#### Suffrage Lane at St. Louis.

Instead of a parade, equal suffrage advocates at St. Louis formed a "golden lane of silence." More than 5,000 women arranged themselves along both sides of Locust street from Twelfth to Jefferson avenue, a distance of ten blocks. Each was dressed in white with a yellow sash and a streamer bearing the words, "Votes for Women." Along this lane the delegates had to go on their trip from their hotels to the Coliseum. [See current volume, page 563.]



#### Preparedness Parade at Washington.

The Preparedness parade in Washington on June 14 was led by President Wilson and contained thousands of government employes. The correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor of Boston reports in the issue of June 16, in part, as follows:

Murmurings to the effect that coercion was used to get government employes to march in Wednesday's preparedness parade were heard in various circles Thursday, indicating that to some degree, at least, it was not a spontaneous demonstration. . . .

Certain cabinet officers, it is known, urged the matter upon employes of their respective departments in such a way as to make many of them feel obliged to march against their desire. While pressure might have been well-intentioned in the first instance, it became magnified when the word was passed down by bureau chiefs to their subordinates until not a few clerks and other employes felt that it was necessary to march in order to retain their positions. One employe of the Bureau of Standards who opposed the demonstration remarked to a fellow worker that he was going to march because he did not want to lose his job, and not until he learned that his chief was not in sympathy with the demonstration did he decide not to march.

One employe of the navy yard said he had been told that he would not be paid for the holiday unless he marched, and an apprentice machinist in the same yard complains that when he said he did not want to march he received from his superior a request for a written reason for his objection.

Certain other employes of the Bureau of Standards are known to have been told that if they did not march they would have to come to work, although the President had declared it a holiday. Employes of the commerce and interior department are known to have been urged by their department to participate en masse and meetings were held for organization purposes. In the postoffice department there was considerable protest because the postmaster general had made it stronger than a request.

Undoubtedly the practice affected broadly many of the 45,000 employes in the various departments, and it would be interesting to know just how many of the thousands who paraded did so because of the genuine sympathy with the purpose or merely because they were told to do so.

Some employes who have felt that the methods used constituted a gross violation of their rights and a misuse of authority by their superiors are expressing a desire that the matter be investigated, and it is not improbable that some members of Congress who are out of sympathy with such demonstrations will seek congressional inquiry.

The American Union Against Militarism sent a letter to Postmaster General Burleson protesting against an alleged order issued by the Washington postoffice to the letter carriers directing them to march in the parade. The union takes the position that government officials have no right to bring any pressure to bear upon government employes to take part in what the union describes as a "political demonstration."

The union made an unsuccessful effort to convince the Board of Education that since the parade was a political demonstration it would be improper for the school authorities to send the high school cadets into it. The board ruled that the parade was practically devoted to "boosting" the good name of the city of Washington, and that therefore it was proper for the cadets to march.

[See current volume, pages 416, 444, 457, 468, 482, 489, 491, 505, 514, 529, 540, 557.]



Congressman Bailey of Pennsylvania is gathering evidence on the matter of coercion and will

urge a congressional investigation as soon as he has this complete.



### Coercion Confessed in Boston.

At the Flag Day dinner in Boston on June 14 some of the speakers defended the methods used to fill the parade. The Boston Journal of June 15 reports these statements as follows:

Not 10,000 people would have been in Boston's preparedness parade had it not been for absolute coercion, thundered W. T. A. Fitzgerald.

We need a kaiser here. Only compulsory service will ever get enough men to respond to the colors to protect us in case of trouble, declared Lieut. Col. John H. Dunn of the Ninth Regiment Association.

Had it not been for the fact that tremendous influence was brought to bear there wouldn't have been 10,000 men in line for the preparedness parade, said Mr. Fitzgerald. There is a deplorable lack of patriotism in the people of Boston. I was the only person on my street who had a flag out today or on Preparedness Day. Yet the street is full of old Yankees—and I'm the poorest man on the street. All they think of is money—nothing else.

Joseph P. Lomasney, chairman of the Boston Schoolhouse Committee, said that there seemed to be no real feeling of patriotism, and reiterated Mr. Fitzgerald's remarks that it was only through great effort that a decent preparedness parade was got together. Even then, he said, we couldn't get anything like the number of men together that Providence got—and that's supposed to be a little "back woods" town, where people go when they want a good time.



### Labor Notes.

The Central Federated Union of New York City has issued the following call to all central labor bodies in the state:

The five military bills recently signed by Governor Whitman, more especially the Stivers bill, now in operation, makes all of us, from the ages of 16 to 46, as American citizens, members of the National Guard. Refusal to serve when ordered to do so is treason, the offender to be tried by a court-martial.

If your members strike, the Governor, under the Stivers law, can order the strikers to don a uniform and protect the property of those you strike against; i. e., under this law, you become strikebreakers. Your children, both boys and girls, minors, are subject to military drill at the will of a commission composed of a member of the National Guard, a regent and one person appointed by the Governor, and must serve from two to four weeks in a military camp. The great Empire State of the nation has become Prussianized at the stroke of a pen.

The Central Federated Union of Greater New York and vicinity does not propose to permit its membership of over 300,000 to be thus forced into military service against their will.

It has decided to fight with all the power it possesses this damnable military despotism. It calls upon your body to assist, and proposes, as a first expression of indignation, to request an audience with Governor Whitman and demand that he call a special

session of the legislature in an effort to repeal the five military bills. All of our affiliated unions have been called upon to select at least one representative to attend said audience when arranged, and we ask that your body select a representative or representatives, and likewise request your affiliated unions to do so. Furthermore, our body has decided to urge the co-operation of all central bodies, local unions, civic and other organizations in this State in a gigantic movement of protest and to arouse the general public, a large majority of whom do not even know of this attempt upon their freedom and liberty and the serious danger confronting them.

Arouse, therefore, you freemen, before the military shackles have so tightened about you that to object to them means a court-martial and a firing squad.



The conference between railroad managers and employes at New York City on the demand for an eight-hour day came to an end on June 15 without any agreement. A proposition by Elisha Lee, chairman of the conference committee, was rejected by the men to refer the matter to the Interstate Commerce Commission. The reason for refusal was that the Commission has adopted a rule prohibiting its members from acting as arbitrators. A vote will now be taken by the 400,000 railroad employes on the question of going out on strike. The vote, even if affirmative, does not necessarily mean that a strike will take place, as there is to be a final session of the conference committee in 40 days, and until then no hostile action will be taken.



### Chicago School Troubles.

By a vote of 11 to 6 the Chicago Board of Education on June 14 voted to abolish the merit system, and made the term of office of a school teacher only for one year. A committee from labor and civic organizations, headed by Miss Mary McDowell, was present to protest, but was not admitted. The members composing the majority were the following: Mrs. F. Vosbrink, John W. Eckhart, Mrs. C. O. Sethness, Mrs. F. E. Thornton, E. J. Piggott, Jacob M. Loeb, Dr. P. C. Clemensen, J. A. Holpuch, E. J. Kruetgen, H. W. Huehl, Charles Young. Those opposed were Mrs. J. MacMahon, Ralph O. Otis, Max Loeb, M. J. Collins, Mrs. W. Gallagher, Charles French. Immediately after the meeting President Jacob M. Loeb of the Board left the city. [See current volume, page 565.]



A protest mass meeting at the Auditorium was called for Saturday afternoon of June 17 by a citizens' committee, headed by Miss McDowell. The hall seating 4,000 was crowded and resolutions were adopted urging a state civil service law for teachers, reduction of the size of the school board from 21 members to 11 or 15, selection of board members for fitness only and "not with ref-

erence to politics, religion, nationality or sex," that the mayor refrain from interfering in the selection of school officials, that the school board select school officials with reference to ability and training for functions and duties, and leave administration of schools to these officials, and that the city council pass on all expenditures by the Board. As a further result of the meeting a Public School League was formed.



The City Council on June 19 directed its school committee to prepare a questionnaire to be submitted to all candidates for school trustee with a view especially to their attitude on the merit question. It directed the judiciary committee to report a bill for creating a merit system for employment of teachers, and the committee on finance to get advice as to legality of making school appropriations contingent on retention of the merit system. It also adopted a resolution of protest against the school board's action.



#### European War.

Little change in the lines about Verdun has resulted from the week's fighting. Heavy cannonading has been continuous, and frequent assaults, both east and west of the Meuse, have followed. Trenches have been lost and retaken south of Dead Man's Hill, and on the front from Thiaumont wood to Ft. Vaux, resulting in small gains for the French in the former sector, and for the Germans in the latter. The French estimate the German losses at Verdun since the beginning of the attack at 415,000 men. Minor engagements have occurred on the British front. The Canadian troops succeeded in recapturing 1,500 yards of trenches taken by the Germans near the village of Hooze. Rumors of a general assault of the German lines by all the Allies continue. July is mentioned as the probable time. Russia continues her advance in Galicia and Bukowina. Czernowitz was not taken until the 17th, when the Russians carried it by storm, and added to their list of prisoners. They claim to have taken 164,000 since the beginning of their advance, and appear to be in a position to add still more from the demoralized Austrian armies. Their advance continues toward Lemberg, capital of Galicia, and Kovel, a railroad center south of the Pripet Marshes. German troops are opposing the Russians before Kovel. On the north end of the line between Riga and Dvinsk German assaults and artillery engagements have occurred, but without material result. [See current volume, page 565.]



The movement of Austrian troops to the Galician front has had the effect of weakening their drive in the Trentino region, either by lessening the number of their troops at that point, or by permitting the Italians to increase their forces. The Austrian advance appears to be finally stopped.

The Italians claim to have assumed the offensive at several points between the Lagarina Valley and Asiago. Dispatches from Saloniki report that news has been received on an advance of the Bulgarian troops in the region of Monastir and Florian. No important fighting has occurred in this region since the close of the Serbian campaign. The Allies are reported to have large forces at Saloniki. Little news comes from Russian or British forces in eastern and southern Turkey. The Turks claim to have stopped the advance of the Russians and to have driven back, the advance of the British below Kut-el-Amara, on the Tigris. This is specifically denied by the British, who claim to hold their position within 200 yards of the Turkish trenches.



Signor Paolo Boselli, veteran Italian parliamentarian and former minister of public instruction, has been requested by the King to form a new cabinet. He is expected to surround himself with eminent men of all parties. Announcement was made at Dublin on the 19th that no more courts martial would be held there. Cases still undisposed of connected with the Irish uprising will be tried under the defense of the realm act, and if found guilty, interned for the duration of the war. Lieutenant General Count von Moltke died of apoplexy on the 18th. He was a nephew of the great Field Marshal von Moltke of the Franco-German war, and was credited with having perfected the German army organization. Owing to failing health he retired from his position as chief of general staff in December, 1914, and was succeeded by the present head of the general staff, General von Falkenhayn.



#### Santo Domingo.

Jacinto de Castro was named by the Senate on the 14th as President to succeed President Jiminez who was impeached, May 2. His name was sent to the chamber of deputies for approval. The chamber took a vote last month for provisional president but Rear Admiral Caperton in command of the American forces in Santo Domingo, requested that the election be postponed until quiet was restored throughout the republic. [See current volume, pages 446 and 542.]



#### Mexico and the United States.

Tension between the two countries continues to increase. General Trevino, on the authority of General Carranza, has forbidden General Pershing to advance east, south or west. Any movement except toward the United States will be construed as a hostile act, and will be met by force. General Pershing replied that he would pursue bandits in whatever direction they might flee, according to his own instructions. General Alfredo Ricault in command at Matamoros, ordered the American punitive expedition pursuing bandits in

that region to withdraw. General Parker, in command at Brownsville, ordered reinforcements to support the expedition. Matters were given a definite turn by the issuance of the President's call on the 18th for the mobilizing of the State militia throughout the country. The troops will assemble at the State camps, and await orders to go to the front. It is expected the call will bring out 145,000 men, 100,000 of whom will be available for active service if necessary. The statement issued at Washington is as follows:

In view of the disturbed conditions of the Mexican border and in order to assure complete protection for all Americans, the President has called out substantially all militia and will send them to the border whenever and as fully as Gen. Funston determines them to be needed for the purposes stated.

If all are not needed an effort will be made to relieve those on duty there from time to time so as to distribute the duty.

This call for militia is wholly unrelated to Gen. Pershing's expedition, and contemplates no additional entry into Mexico except as may be necessary to prosecute certain bandits who attempt outrages on American soil.

The militia are being called out so as to leave some troops in the several States. They will be mobilized at their home stations, where necessary training can be done.

[See current volume, page 565.]

American naval vessels are on their way to Mexican ports, or are being placed in readiness for active service. Those in Mexican waters are aiding Americans to leave the country. There are supposed to be about five thousand still in Mexico, of whom 1,200 are in Mexico City. Everything is being done preparatory for war, should that be the outcome of the situation. The reply of President Wilson to General Carranza's protest against the presence of American troops in Mexico has not been made public, but it is understood to be a refusal to withdraw until order has been restored in the northern Mexican states, and the invasion of American soil has been stopped.

#### Death of Joseph Leggett.

A belated announcement has come of the death at San Francisco of Joseph Leggett, one of the oldest workers in the Singletax movement in the United States. Mr. Leggett was a native of Dublin, Ireland. He settled in California in 1868. He was one of a small group which met during the '70s in Judge Maguire's law office in San Francisco to discuss the propositions advanced in Henry George's "Our Land and Land Policy." When in 1878 the "Land Reform League of California" was formed, he was elected its president. This was the first organization in the world to propagate Henry George's ideas. He was still classed among active workers at the time of his death.

## NEWS NOTES

—Wisconsin Socialists on June 18 nominated Rae Weaver of Beaver Dam for Governor.

—United States Senator Edwin C. Burleigh of Maine died on June 16 at his home in Augusta.

—Socialists of the 12th Missouri District have nominated for Congress Dr. Louis H. Davis, a Singletaxer.

—Illinois Socialists on June 17 nominated Seymour Stedman of Chicago for Governor and Carl F. Sandberg for Lieutenant Governor.

—The British government has appointed the Hon. John William Fortescue, librarian at Windsor Castle, to write the official history of the war.

—H. H. Timby of Ashtabula, Ohio, announced on June 15 his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for State Senator on a tax reform platform.

—The Utah Progressive State Committee declared on June 19 for a separate National and State ticket and against endorsement of Republican nominees.

—Zionists of the United States will hold their national convention in Philadelphia at the Hotel Walton on July 2 to 5. Among speakers announced are Justice Louis D. Brandeis, Mrs. Joseph Fels, Dr. S. Solis-Cohen, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and others.

—A request by federal recruiting officers to the Milwaukee school board for names and addresses of boy high school graduates that they might be solicited to enlist was rejected on June 17 by the Committee on Rules. The Socialist members constituted the adverse majority.

—The Japanese foreign office at Tokio announced officially on the 14th that Almore Sato will succeed Viscount Suteimi Chinda as ambassador to the United States. The new ambassador has been minister to Mexico and to the Netherlands. He was educated in the United States. Baron Chinda will be transferred to London.

—A quarrel between the Pennsylvania branch of the Navy League, with headquarters at Philadelphia, and the national body caused the branch organization to decide on June 16 to secede. The quarrel was due to the disagreement over the policy of Seven Seas, organ of the National League. Dues paid by members of the withdrawn organization are being returned.

—The New York County Committee of the Progressive party on June 15 endorsed for Governor Judge Samuel Seabury, and for Lieutenant Governor Hamilton Fish. Both are Democrats. A resolution was adopted declaring that the National Committee should choose another Progressive party man for President should Colonel Roosevelt decline. This action was taken in spite of the opposition of Oscar S. Straus, Secretary of Commerce and Labor during Roosevelt's administration.

—The United States Supreme Court on June 12 allowed the question of constitutionality of the Oregon minimum wage law and ten-hour law to be reopened. Justice Brandeis, having argued in behalf of these laws when formerly before the court, is barred from taking part in their reconsideration. The court affirmed on the same day the action of the Ohio

Supreme Court in upholding repeal through referendum of a congressional redistricting law. The contest was based on a claim of unconstitutionality of the Initiative and Referendum under the guarantee of a republican form of government.

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## PRESS OPINIONS

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### Good Cause to Object.

New York Call, June 19. If the Mayor of New York City sent a policeman to your house and ordered that policeman to catch a burglar that had broken in, you might be thankful at first. But if the burglar died or got away and the policeman continued to stick around in your parlor for a couple of months you would begin to get peevish. If repeated requests to the Mayor failed to secure an order to remove the policeman you would doubtless begin to contemplate ways and means of getting rid of that individual. You would not be satisfied as long as that policeman remained in your parlor, mussing up your home and keeping you under watch constantly. The chances are that you would throw that policeman out, even if you got hurt in the attempt. On March 19 American soldiers went into Mexico to catch a bandit. That is exactly three months ago. Villa, the bandit, seems to be dead. If he is not dead, he has vanished. He has not been heard of for a long time. There are 15,000 American soldiers in Chihuahua, Mexico, now and as many more along the border. These soldiers are not making any effort to catch Villa, and they have not been making any effort to do that for a long time. In fact, the American soldiers are much nearer the border now than they were a month or six weeks ago. They have come nearer home and given up the chase. We are keeping our policemen in the house of another nation.



### An Irish Patriot.

The Herald (London), June 3. The following letter from Patrick H. Pearse, the President of the Irish Republic, to his mother on the eve of his execution was printed in the Star on Friday last:

My Dearest Mother:—

I have been hoping up to now that it would be possible to see you again, but it does not seem possible.

Good-bye, dear, dear mother. Through you I say good-bye to "Wow-Wow," Mary, Brigid, Willie, Miss B., Michael, cousin Maggie, and everyone at St. Enda's.

I hope and believe that Willie and the St. Enda's boys will be all safe.

I have written two papers about financial affairs and one about my books which I want you to get. With them are a few poems, which I want added to the poems in MS. in the bookcase.

You asked me to write a little poem which would seem to be said by you about me. I have written it, and a copy is in Arbour Hill Barracks with the other papers.

I have just received Holy Communion. I am happy except for the great grief of parting from you.

This is the death I should have asked for if God had given me the choice of all deaths—to die a soldier's death for Ireland and for freedom.

We have done right. People will say hard things of us now, but later on will praise us. Do not grieve for all this, but think of it as a sacrifice which God asked of me and of you.

Good-bye, again, dear mother. May God bless you for your great love for me, and for your great faith, and may He remember all that you have so bravely suffered! I hope soon to see papa, and in a little while we shall be all together again.

"Wow-wow," Willie, Mary, Brigid, and mother, good-bye.

I have not words to tell you of my love for you, and how my heart yearns to you all. I will call to you in my heart at the last moment.

Your son,

PAT.

The brother Willie mentioned in the letter was also shot. What a bitter reflection it is to all us British people that British rule in Ireland should have driven such fine and noble characters as Patrick Pearse, James Connolly, and their friends into rebellion! We all should resolve that, from henceforth, justice shall be done as between Britain and Ireland, and by some means true peace, concord, and brotherhood shall be established between the two democracies.



### Besides, Who Created the Value?

New York World, May 31.—The John Street Church, cradle of Methodism in the East, is to be replaced by a business structure. The great value of the site has been paid by the public through remission of taxes. New York is probably not ready to tax all church property, as a complete divorce of church and state requires, but why should not the city reclaim part of the profit to lighten taxation when a church abandons its religious work and turns its tax-free property into a real-estate deal?



### Proportional Representation in Tasmania.

The Standard (Sydney), April 15.—The elections in Tasmania have afforded supporters of the second ballot and other enemies of electoral reform an opportunity to get in some fine work. They have been ably assisted by the Sydney morning press. In fact, other papers as well are ready to publish critical paragraphs, etc., but apparently have little or no space for anyone who has made a study of electoral systems. Proportional representation simply provides for true representation in Parliament of the best available men of all parties. If the population of a state is almost equally divided, as it is in Tasmania today, that position is reflected in the House. Will the critics be sufficiently candid as to say that it should be otherwise? If so, will they say whether a portion of Liberal opinion or Labor opinion should be suppressed? If we must have a party with "a good working majority" by disfranchising a lot of people, who is to decide which side is to be pole-axed? When parties are evenly divided there should be a coalition government, or non-party legislation for the time being. An equal or nearly equal division of public opinion means that the people need more time to make up their minds upon contentious questions.



The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it.—John Stuart Mill.

## RELATED THINGS

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

#### GOD SAVE THE MAN!

By Ethel Allen Murphy.

Oh, 'tis very fine and stirring when the joy bells ring,  
 And the last victorious army comes marching home in pride,  
 And all the simple people stand round about and sing,  
 "Praise God!" "Long live our country!" and "God save the King!"  
 'Tis very fine to talk of peace that's dearly bought from strife,  
 But what of all the many men, the millions that have died?  
 And what of thousands reft of love, and thousands maimed for life?

For who will bring home again  
 The man to the wife's side?  
 And who will bring home again  
 The lover to his bride?  
 And who will unite again  
 The sister and the brother?  
 And who will bring home again  
 The son to the mother?

Show me a king can do this thing,  
 And there's a king indeed!  
 A Christ-like king who lives to bring  
 His love of human need!

The maidens tossing roses to the soldiers marching by,  
 As crowns to deck the victors, and as wreaths for those who die—  
 'Tis very fine and stirring, but brothers tell me why  
 Should the toiling world be all bereft of noble hearts and true,  
 When it comes so hard to bear them, and there is so much to do—  
 So many thousand greater things, than to trample poor folks' fields,  
 And to desolate mute hearthstones, and to waste life's dear-bought yields!

The roses, they may bloom again  
 Through all the countryside,  
 And the harvests, they may laugh again,  
 Where men have groaned and died;  
 But millions will not come again,  
 At morn or eventide,  
 And millions will not laugh again  
 As long as life shall bide!

'Tis very fine and stirring, when the people stand and sing,  
 "Long live the Emperor!" and "God save the King!"  
 But 'tis time to sing a new song, and to try a nobler plan,  
 "Long live Humanity!" and "God save the Man!"

## TRYING TO COERCE CONGRESS.

A Story in Four Chapters.

### I.—Congressional Freedom.

During the fourteen years immediately prior to the adoption of the Federal Constitution, which displaced the Articles of Confederation in 1789, the Congress of the United States had met from time to time in several different cities. Among these places of meeting were Annapolis and Baltimore, in Maryland; Princeton and Trenton, in New Jersey; New York City, in New York; and Lancaster, Philadelphia and York, in Pennsylvania.

Some friction had been engendered during this period by certain spasmodic efforts on the part of local interests toward influencing legislative action. It is related that an example of this kind of effort occurred while Congress was in session at Philadelphia, where citizens of Pennsylvania, in the exercise of the rights of public assemblage and of free speech, made demonstrations calculated to impress upon Congress their views in favor of certain legislation which the members of that body were not inclined to enact. One of the measures adopted to obviate such friction was to set apart a definite district for the location of the seat of government wherein Congress should "exercise exclusive legislation" free from the annoyance of special local interests which might otherwise seek to influence its action. This measure of self-defense became effective under paragraph 17, section 8, Article 1 of the present constitution, by the selection for this purpose of the territory which afterwards became known as the District of Columbia.

### II.—The Coxey Incident.

Some years afterwards, but within the recollection of many persons yet living, certain citizens of Ohio and of other States, under leadership of their own choosing, organized an aggregation known as "Coxey's Army" and marched to the seat of government at Washington for the announced purpose of impressing upon Congress the need which they felt for the enactment of laws embodying definite policies ostensibly for the public welfare. Among other things, for example, their propaganda urged legislation in favor of good roads, a measure which has grown in popularity with the progress of time, especially since the automobile interests began to boost the movement. It may be that the experiences of the long overland tramp of "the army" between Washington and its initial points of rendezvous had something to do with their enthusiasm for road improvement; but that's another story.

Upon his arrival in Washington at the head of his aggregation, "General" Coxey found Congress disinclined to listen to him, as it had been unwilling to give heed to previous demonstrations

designed to coerce its action. The so-called army was dispersed in short order by the Washington authorities, and the freedom of congressional action was thus triumphantly vindicated.

### III.—The "Preparedness Parade" on Flag Day.

Influenced largely by propaganda voiced in the broadsides of advertising carried, during recent months, by the daily press for the Bethlehem Steel Company (and in other ways), many of the residents of the District of Columbia have been induced by militarists, under the leadership of the Navy League and kindred organizations, to engage in a so-called "preparedness parade" at the door of Congress, the avowed intent of such demonstration being to influence congressional action in favor of increases in our military establishment unparalleled in times of peace. The voice is the militarist's voice, but the hands are the hands of the patriot, and many are they who, like the blind patriarch, have been tricked into an expression of patriotism which under the circumstances can not and will not be taken seriously by the congressional body whose actions it is designed to affect.

It is fortunate indeed that our country is not really in peril; that, in the language of President Wilson, it "is not threatened from any quarter" and "stands in friendly relations with all the world." It is also true, to again quote President Wilson (Jan. 27, 1916), that "Nobody seriously supposes that the United States needs fear an invasion of its own territory." Hence, thousands of persons, when given a holiday "just for the fun of the thing," on a day set apart for the commemoration of "Old Glory" and its traditions, are willing to light-heartedly let their patriotic enthusiasm overflow in terms of martial music, beautiful banners, and happy comradeship, with no serious thought of the profit which designing munitions manufacturers seek to gain by it.

Certain it is that such a parade could not have been staged on any other day, and this they knew full well who were pulling the wires behind the scenes. It is, moreover, unthinkable that Congress will be other than true to its traditional jealousy of its prerogatives, for demonstrations of this character never yet have sufficed to turn it from the even tenor of the way it was prone to pursue regardless of such efforts at coercion.

### IV.—Some Pertinent Questions.

Upon sober second thought, however, now that the blare and the hurly-burly of it all are past, and an opportunity for reflection has come, it may well be asked:

(1) If we Americans were seriously impressed with the idea that our country is really in peril would we not pack the recruiting stations, rather than march in parades?

(2) Is it not a fact that, in spite of this and similar parades, enlistments in the army and navy have not perceptibly increased?

(3) Granting that it is more fun to march in a gala day parade than to work at one's usual occupation (especially when there is no loss of pay), is it quite fair to so thoughtlessly carry banners advocating something which is calculated to affect all of us intimately for years to come?

(4) Is it not gratifying, therefore, after all, to know that the banner-carrying, owing to the strength of character which our Congressmen possess, is not to be taken seriously?

(5) In view of the artificial character of the enthusiasm, may we not rejoice to realize the futility of it all?

(6) If the law against interference with congressional freedom of action is to be abrogated by non-observance, why not restore the right of suffrage to the people of the District of Columbia so that they may wield their influence, not by parading but in the regular American way, by the ballot?

D. C. WASHINGTON.

## BOOKS

### WORDS THAT CONCEAL IDEAS.

**Welfare as an Economic Quantity.** By G. P. Watkins. Published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Boston. Price, \$1.50 net.

Space requires that a review of this book shall begin at the end. Let us quote:

He is no democrat who claims for the naturally inferior equal rights. The democrat would have all equals and all worthy to be so. He would therefore abolish the inferior. . . . He has no use for the lord or the vassal or the slave. . . . Our conclusions that the means of bare existence are of no utility, or of contingent utility only, that moderate incomes are good in themselves and good for society, and that great incomes, especially great inherited incomes mean principally a waste of utilities—are an incidental outcome of this analysis of variation of utility.

This is the accident that happens after 190 pages closely printed are devoted to the discussion of nearly as many varieties of utility as there are things existing on the earth. Here are some of them. Adventitious utility, that seems to exist only in the mind of the monopolist. Marginal utility, super-marginal utility, intra-super marginal utility, which are supposed to have something to do with the supply and demand of goods or things. Positive and negative utility, the latter not utility at all, but a nuisance. Free utility, the utility of free goods. Direct and indirect utility. Direct is the thing that is ready to eat. Indirect is the thing that helps us to get it ready. Of course no utility can attach to the latter in the mind of a teacher of economics. It is nothing but a shadow that leads to discussion. Then there is utility proper and particular utility, complementary utility and transputed utility and ex-

istential utility and multiple utility and processive utility. There is also the diminution of utility at a diminishing rate, with a curve and a mathematical formula that runs clear through 14 pages of the book and monopolizes nearly 22 more pages explaining what it is all about.

The inferior who is denied equal rights and attempts to find out why in this book, will be so dazzled by this display of varieties in utility that he will abandon all his hope of democracy and consent to be abolished without protest. The superior who is allowed to exist will wonder what it means and revere the greatness of the intellects that have so well explored the wildernesses of utility that whole books can be written about them with nothing but accidental results as the outcome.

The author defines utility as the capacity in greater or less degree to satisfy wants. The inferior that is to be abolished will think that this means a quality or property attached to things that remains stable with the things as long as they exist. He will think that this quality or property has no degree that can be measured mathematically or psychologically by the human mind and that attempts to do so produce nothing but confusion. But the inferior is to be abolished.

Really, economics as a science of dodging conclusions is so wonderful that we stand in awe of the students who can write whole books about a single word and escape a conclusion unless it comes around incidentally. There are some words in the book about welfare but that seems to be a utility also.

There is a suspicion, however, that the book was written to give a sly dig at monopolists who flaunt their wealth in public and corrupt society by creating a desire in the inferiors for an excess of utility.

Hence the number of varieties and the confusion of utility with value in exchange so often revealed.

GEO. V. WELLS.

## WHITMAN CALMLY SURVEYED.

**Walt Whitman: The Prophet-Poet.** By Roland D. Sawyer. Published by Richard G. Badger. Boston, Mass. Price \$1.

The Gorham Press puts out books that are things of beauty—letter press that would delight the soul of Morris or Ruskin—covers that would please Sanderson—wherefore this little volume is a delight to handle. And the author has written an essay that is charming in its simplicity of style, and reveals an enthusiasm that is not blind hero-worship. As an introduction to Whitman it will serve to interest those whose reading has not run that way, but for students of the poet it holds nothing new. The fact is that nothing remains to be said of Whitman; even Hunecker's iconoclastic fire left things much as they were. Whif-

man has been very thoroughly studied, classified, dissected and analyzed; what of him is valuable has been accepted, the rest rejected, and the way he blazed has become an open road for a host of writers of *vers libre*. The author has one chapter of exceptional interest, setting forth the estimates of various writers on Whitman as to his value, but does not include Maynard, whose book is certainly valuable.

CHAS. J. FINGER.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

—**Inviting War to America.** By Allan L. Benson. Published by B. W. Huebsch, New York, 1916. Price, \$1.00 net.

—**Culture and War.** By Simon Nelson Patten. Published by B. W. Huebsch, New York, 1916. Price, 60 cents net.

—**The Restoration of Europe.** By Alfred H. Fried. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York, 1916. Price, \$1.00 net.

—**Magazine Subject-Index, 1915.** Edited by Frederick Winthrop Faxon. Published by the Boston Book Co., Boston, 1916.

—**The Story of the New Testament.** By Edgar J. Goodspeed. Published by the University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1916. Price, \$1.00 net.

—**The Single Tax Movement in the United States.** By Arthur Nichols Young. Published by the Princeton University Press, Princeton, N. J. 1916. Price, \$1.50 net.

—**A Prophet in His Own Country.** Being the letters of Henry Clifford Stuart. Published by the author, 2619 Woodley place, N. W., Washington, D. C. 1916. Price, \$2.00 net.

—**State Regulation of Railroads in the South.** By Maxwell Ferguson. Number 162, Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. Longmans, Green & Co., agents, New York, 1916. Price, paper, \$1.75 net.

—**American Men of Letters: Their Nature and Nurture.** By Edwin Leavitt Clarke. Number 168, Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. Longmans, Green & Co., agents, New York, 1916. Price, paper, \$1.50 net.

Man is a land animal, and to deprive the many of the right to till the soil is like depriving fishes of the right to swim in the sea. You force fish into a net, and they cease to thrive; you entrap men, through economic necessity, in cities and allow a few to control the land, and you perpetuate ignorance and crime. And eventually you breed a race of beings who take no joy in Nature, never having gotten acquainted with her. The problem is not one of religion, but of common-sense in economics. Back to the land!—Mary Wollstonecraft, first of modern suffragists.

Men always lose half of what is gained by violence. What is gained by argument is gained forever.—Wendell Phillips.

Jinks—Why are Mr. Hearst's papers called "yellow"?

Binks—Because the headlines are a loud yell and all of their matter is low.—Timbuctoo Times.



"Ham and eggs," ordered the restaurant patron. "Bring me the same," ordered his friend, "but eliminate the eggs." "Yes, sah," said the waiter as he meandered toward the kitchen. A few minutes later he returned empty handed and said, "Boss, don't you want your eggs boiled or fried?" "No," was the answer. "I told you to eliminate the eggs." Once more he left and finally returned after a long absence. "Boss," he said, apologetically, "I'se awful sorry, sah, but we can't give you them eggs eliminated. Our eliminator am broken."—Unidentified.

## The Mexican People: Their Struggle for Freedom

By Guitierrez De Lara and Edgcumb Pinchon

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## What the Postman Brings

I am obliged for your gracious lines in the June 9 issue. *The Public* comes to the jail here—to a prisoner who cells in the same tier with me. He passes me the paper every week; it brings to me a whiff of the strong gusts of freedom sweeping through the country.

BOUCK WHITE, QUEENS COUNTY JAIL, N. Y.

I consider it most highly important that our national democracy be represented by a literary organ, and *The Chicago Public* constitutes a most able embodiment of such representation. In fact, I consider that publication the very seed and prime hope of our democratic progress.

J. H. RUSBY, NUTLEY, N. J.

I am not a Singletaxer in the sense of seeing in that reform the whole essence of religion and politics, but I do not have to be a Singletaxer or an Anti to value the courage and clearness with which you expose and reveal the selfishness, blindness, lethargy and cruelty about us all the time.

HENRY W. KEIGWIN, MOUNT VERNON, N. Y.

Please discontinue sending me *The Public*. I approve and sympathize with the views of *The Public* upon questions of taxation, but as I regard its attitude on the subject of preparedness as pernicious I do not desire longer to support it. In my judgment the latter question is the most important one now before the American people, and therefore I do not wish to support any organization or paper which opposes adequate preparation.

ALLAN B. A. BRADLEY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Kindly cease sending me *The Public*. I have regretted many times since that in a moment of weakness a year ago I then sent you \$1 to renew my subscription. At this, the greatest crisis in the world's history in two thousand years, when a long planned and "Scientifically" matured effort is being made to destroy democracy; at a time when a numerically great nation which has lost its soul endorses and applauds every crime, no matter how heinous, which its rulers are perpetrating; and at a time when the two great democracies, France and Great Britain, are giving their lives by the hundreds of thousands in order to save the civilization which the world has attained to, the course of *The Public* comes very near to being traitorous to the cause of democracy.

ROBERT BAKER, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

I have read, with great interest, *The Public* for nearly a year. Brought up in a genuine New England home, with all its traditions, my relatives unswerving Republicans, gaining their livelihood on "Privilege," I was feebly trying to shake off some of my traditional views, when fortunately I was offered a year's subscription to *The Public* by a good collegiate friend of mine. Without question *The Public* has profoundly changed my whole viewpoint of life. I do not wish you to feel I am a blind enthusiast. For an undergraduate I have read widely, and I do not often change my opinions quickly; but I have changed them now, and I believe they are based on the bedrock of Fundamental Democracy. I thank you.

H. B. H., PROVIDENCE, R. I.

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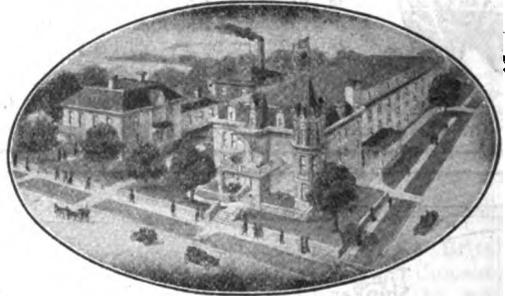
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