

higher rent, and therefore is as tenant paying a higher rent. Reflect upon these facts and you find that the value of the street car accommodation is reflected in the value of city sites, just as the value of the elevator is reflected in the value of the upper air which modern buildings pierce. Mayor Johnson's contention consequently is that the custom of charging street car fares is wasteful and burdensome. He would doubtless also say that it makes the wrong person pay for street car service. The persons who ought to pay for such service are not the passengers who as somebody's tenants pay again in higher rent, but those who are enabled by the better street car service to exact the higher rent.

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### The Acquittal of Shea.

At last the Shea conspiracy case (p. 1066) is ended. Mr. Shea and his teamsters' union associates have been acquitted. Only two jurors were for conviction at the start, and these quickly yielded to the other ten. The prosecution was utterly without merit. It was instigated and maintained both in court and in the trust newspapers, for private business ends. The prosecuting lawyer was hardly more than nominally a member of the prosecuting officer's staff. He was the private attorney of the business interests that instigated the prosecution. And the prosecution itself, while nominally for a blackmailing conspiracy to injure the business of a mercantile firm, was in fact for the criminalization of sympathetic strikes. It failed, first because there was no credible testimony of blackmail, and second because the jury would not place sympathetic strikes under the ban of the criminal law.

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A curious thing happened after the trial. Three or four labor leaders who had been accepted as informers, had sworn to transactions calculated to prove that the strike was in furtherance of pecuniary objects, that brutal violence had been resorted to deliberately by the strike leaders, that they themselves had participated in these criminal purposes and acts, that no promise of immunity had been made them, and that having pleaded guilty they expected to be imprisoned. Now, it is true that the jury refused to believe these informers (some of whom were shown to be convicted criminals), in so far as their testimony incriminated the men on trial. But that was no reason for exonerating them upon their own pleas of guilty. Although the men on trial were acquitted, these informers were guilty on their own pleas. If the indictment described a crime, they stood before

the court self-convicted of that crime. Yet the prosecuting attorney, failing to convict the innocent men, exonerated these guilty ones. This may be the law, for the prosecuting attorney did it; presumably it must be the law, for the judge allowed it. But what kind of law is it that permits guilty men, men guilty of crime upon their own confession in open court, to go free because a jury would not believe their testimony against other men?

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### Death of William M. Hinton.

Word comes from San Francisco of the death of William M. Hinton, the printer who had so much faith in Henry George's "Progress and Poverty," while it was yet in manuscript, that he assumed the financial responsibility for manufacturing the first edition. In his printing office in San Francisco both he and George set some of the type, and among the regular compositors was James H. Barry, now the proprietor and editor of the Star, who, in a tribute in the Star to the memory of Mr. Hinton writes: "I set type for 'Progress and Poverty,' and am both proud and ashamed of the fact—proud that the book has commanded the thought of the world and awakened the consciences of millions of men, but ashamed I didn't know that it would; didn't know that the then almost unknown printer, Henry George, had clearly pointed the way to industrial freedom, and would ere long be known as the 'Prophet of San Francisco'; didn't know that the book I wondered if anybody would read, although they might buy it for 'sweet charity's sake,' would be translated into every civilized language, be used as a classic and text-book in colleges, and make the hitherto dismal science of economics as fascinating as a novel by a master. I didn't know these things would come to pass; but Mr. Hinton did; and said so at the time. I then felt sorry for the 'old gentleman,' as his employees affectionately styled him. I thought that personal friendship was the cause of his optimism and enthusiasm. When, two or three years later, I read 'Progress and Poverty,' it was a revelation to me, and has been an inspiration ever since. I am not exaggerating when I say that but for William M. Hinton the publication of the book might have been delayed many a year."

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### Ye Ancient "Standpatter."

Lord Bacon asked a question of the "standpatters" of his day, the echoes of which should not fall upon unwilling ears in our own time: "Things alter for the worse spontaneously, if they