

tween the Judge and the jury; for, although the Judge is a Roman Catholic, so were about half of the jury. The question raised seems to have been purely one of general public policy, namely, Shall judges be allowed by juries to coerce them into rendering verdicts against their own judgment and conscience?

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The case came to trial before Judge Withrow and a jury of twelve men at St. Louis, and on the 12th Judge Withrow instructed the jury to return a verdict in favor of Father White on the ground that undue influence had not been proved. This the jury refused to do and a deadlock continued three days. The Judge explained (as reported in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat of the 15th) that—

a suit to set aside a will is quite different in nature from any other civil case, in this, that it cannot be dismissed by the plaintiff, nor can a non-suit be properly entered by the Court. The case must proceed to final verdict. As the plaintiff had failed to prove her case, by its instruction requiring the jury to find a verdict sustaining the will, the Court relieved the jury of all responsibility and left nothing for the jury to decide. The signing of the verdict by the jury was merely a formal act to complete the record.

But on their side, according to the same newspaper report—

the jurors several times in court defended their stand with the claim that they are maintaining their rights as American citizens to return a verdict as their consciences dictate.

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After refusing for three days to sign a verdict for the defendant as directed by the Judge, the jury on the 15th returned the following verdict for the plaintiff:

We, the jury in the above entered cause, find in favor of the plaintiff, for the reason that from the circumstantial evidence of the witnesses examined, we believe there was undue influence exerted over Bridget McDermott prior to and at the time she executed the instrument in question, and that it was not her last will and testament.

Examining this verdict and consulting several passages in law books he had sent for, Judge Withrow said:

Gentlemen, although you have found in violation of the Court's instructions, the Court will accept this as your verdict, which, on the motion of either side for a new trial, the Court may set aside.

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Singletax Rivalry.

As the result of a challenge by A. B. du Pont of Cleveland, made at the Singletax conference at Chicago last month and accepted by George A. Schilling of Chicago, a competition between Cleve-

land and Chicago has begun for raising contributions for the Joseph Fels Fund, the prize to the successful city being Miss Buchanan's statuette, "Votes for Women," a copy of which Mr. du Pont and Mr. Schilling have bought for the purpose. The test is to be the amount raised in each city in proportion to its population. [See current volume, page 1217.]

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Pursuant to this challenge, organizations have been effected under Mr. Schilling's direction in Chicago and under Mr. du Pont's in Cleveland. In Chicago the organization has taken the form of a committee, with Theodore J. Amberg as chairman and treasurer, James B. Ellery as secretary, and Otto Cullman, George V. Wells, and Frank D. Butler as executive committee. In addition to the work of this organization, Mr. Schilling, as a member of the national Auxiliary Committee appointed at the Conference, is pushing the movement for financial support throughout the State of Illinois. In Cleveland, where the managers have set themselves the "task" of raising at least half a cent per capita of the city's population, a Singletax Club has been organized with J. B. Vining as president, Dr. J. E. Tuckerman as vice president, and Martin F. McCarthy as secretary and treasurer.

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Chinese Conferences.

A peace conference between Wu Tingfang, the foreign secretary of the Republicans, and Tang Shao Ya, representing the Imperial Premier, Yuan Shi-Kai, each accompanied by five delegates, opened at Shanghai on the 18th. The peace terms offered by the Republicans were announced in advance to be as follows: the Manchu dynasty to be abolished; a republic to be established, with Yuan Shi-Kai President and Sun Yat Sen, Vice-President; the first cabinet to be selected by the revolutionists, and the second-term President to be elected. In the meantime a revolutionary convention sitting at Nanking, composed of delegates from fourteen provinces, has elected Dr. Sun Yat Sen President of the new Republic. [See current volume, pages 1075, 1267.]

NEWS NOTES

—The British Parliament was prorogued on the 16th until February 14th.

—Ella Flagg Young was re-elected by the Board of Education on the 13th as Superintendent of the public schools of Chicago. [See vol. xiii, p. 1203.]

—After successful experiments with a few of the public school buildings in Chicago, a general policy of utilizing them for social neighborhood centers has now been adopted by the Board of Edu-