

tory of the world; it reaches into press, pulpits and universities; it towers above the laws and governments; it has neither conscience nor patriotism; money is its god, greed its religion, force its argument, monopoly its weapon and humanity its victim.

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Leadership in Massachusetts on such a platform puts Governor Foss in the rapidly growing front rank of Progressive leaders in national politics.

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Indecent Mail Matter.

Upon the exclusion of the Chicago vice report from the United States mails, much excellent editorial comment has been made. In the larger daily papers, the best editorials on the matter are probably those of the New York World and the Chicago Tribune. So extended and pointed has the comment been, and so absurd was the exclusion of this useful public document, that the Post Office Department has felt obliged to recede from its first position. But under the precedents its first position was right; and regardless of precedent, its later one is monstrously bureaucratic.

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At first, the Postmaster General refused mail facilities to that report. He was right by the precedents. Less objectionable publications—by postoffice tests,—and as useful ones in principle, had been rejected before. Publishers with as good motives as the Chicago Vice Commission had been deprived of mailing facilities for their publications, and been themselves sent to the penitentiary for mailing them. An instance approaching in absurdity the exclusion of the vice report was the exclusion of a decent periodical for quoting, in good faith and for decent controversial use, from an agricultural report of the United States government! But now comes the Postmaster General with “permission,” bureaucratic permission, to mail a certain number of copies of that report, and no more! In other words, taking the matter as it stands, certain persons are “permitted” by the postal bureau to mail a certain number of copies of a book of a kind the mailing of which is denied to all other persons and to these persons also in excess of the specified number of copies of this particular book. In still different words, the mailability of indecent matter—for that is what the bureau adjudges the Chicago vice report to be, and correctly according to its precedents, is made to depend not upon *law*, applicable to all persons and all publications, but upon the *personal* favor of a Department chief!

Would we then exclude that vice report from the mails, or punish the public spirited men who mailed it? By no means. It is a useful and worthy document, and Dean Sumner and his associates are entitled to credit for insisting upon its mailability. The wider its circulation, the more certainly and quickly would the vice that hides in dark places be stamped out. Secrecy helps only those who profit from the vice it veils. What we would do, however, and what The Public has often urged these many years, is to put an end to the postal censorship of unexposed mail matter. It is the business of the Postoffice Department to carry properly wrapped communications, not to pry into their character. This censorship ought to have been abolished long ago. It never should have had a beginning. Unless it is abolished, the transmission of facts and opinions through the mails will depend upon the prejudices, the whims, the political affiliations, the corruption and the favoritism of postal officials. For criminal uses of the mails the regular criminal law is the only recourse at all consistent with a free press. Exclusion by arbitrary orders of a Department, spells censorship in its most dangerous form.*

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Death of Judge Harlan.

At no time in the history of the United States could Judge Harlan have been less safely spared from the Supreme Bench than now. His death leaves to a President who worships judges as deific, who is a class-conscious aristocrat to the last degree, who looks upon plutocracy as a coming aristocracy under the favor of the gods, and who seeks for renomination the support of interests needing a Supreme Court of their own and which never do anything for nothing—it leaves to such a President the power to fill out a plutocratic majority of Supreme Court judges. Already he has appointed four who fit snugly to his own standards, and has raised to the Chief Justiceship a man after the civic heart of Cardinal Gibbons. Judge Harlan's death gives him the chance to appoint his fifth, and five is a majority. But this is all in the day's work. Democracy might have been realized long ago but for the survival in newer forms of the same hostile spirit that has obstructed its development, step by step, year by year, century by century, from the various periods of slavery in property forms to the present period of resistance to it in indirect and more subtle forms. Whatever may result from this untimely death, the memory of Harlan will sur-

*See The Public, volume xii, page 700; volume xiii, page 1105; current volume, pages 74, 99, 1032.

rive while democracy does. He fought for democracy as courageously as any old time battlefield hero. That his were bloodless fights takes away nothing from the courage required to make them. It was the same old enemy he encountered, the same subtle and merciless enemy; and they met in the last entrenchment of Privilege. What executives once were as defenders of Privilege and what legislatures became, such now are the courts that extend their function of applying law into the domain of making it. When the history of this last struggle is written, the name of John M. Harlan, another of those democrats for whom this country is indebted to Kentucky, cannot be inconspicuous.

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Dangers from Economic Malpractice.

Most thoughtful and valuable in all the editorial comment on the Austin (Pa.) disaster is that which the excellent editorial service of the American Economic League (Cincinnati) furnished its subscribers. Quoting its text from reports that the people of Austin feared a break in the dam but made no protest because the company owning it "was the life of the town," this Economic League editorial reflects: "That is, workers in the mill were afraid to complain for fear that they would lose their jobs. The possibility of death by drowning was not as bad as the greater danger of death by starvation. Land owners in Austin were silent for fear the Bayless Pulp and Paper Company would take some action that would depreciate land values. So the danger was allowed to continue until the disaster came. It is useless to denounce the Bayless Company. The individuals composing that concern were no more negligent than nine-tenths of those denouncing them would have been in their place. It is useless to denounce the State officials charged with the duty of inspection. The most conscientious inspector is unable to protect people from economic conditions they insist on upholding. As long as an economic system is maintained under which workers must depend on the favor of a few privileged ones for a chance to earn their living, so long will it be vain to devise ways and means to protect them from dangers from which they might, under different conditions, protect themselves."

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Singletax in Canada.

James Ritchie, the chief executive of Summerland, British Columbia, adds testimony in support of the growing tendency toward the Singletax in Canada. Writing to Joseph Fels in reply to a

question regarding the Singletax, Mr. Ritchie said: "There is absolutely no hesitancy on my part in replying that it is the only mode of taxation that can be successfully maintained in this country. We would never dream of enforcing any other kind here, and you can use this expression of opinion as having come from one who owns thousands of acres of land in a district where land values have increased three and four hundred per cent during recent years."

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Farmers and the Singletax.

A whole text book could be no more enlightening on the relation of farming interests to the Henry George movement than this statement from the Labor Press of Portland regarding the Oregon county in which a petition for the Singletax has been signed and is now being fought in the Oregon courts: "In Clackamas county there are 266,000 acres of vacant land held in tracts of from 160 acres up, absolutely unimproved, and now paying taxes of about \$70,000. The farmer is told that land value taxation exclusive of improvements and personal property would double his taxes on his land. If so, it would double it on these 266,000 acres, thereby adding \$70,000 to the public funds from that source alone. This is more than the farmers and townspeople together pay on improvements, livestock and implements."

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Death of Dr. Anna M. Lund.

Whoever knew Dr. Lund respected her, and all who knew her well honored and loved her. In her profession as a dentist, she was devoted to its uses and conscientious regarding all its responsibilities. She brought the same type of character into every other relationship. In the noble sense of a misused epithet, she was a "new woman." Without turning away from any domestic duties—indeed her responsibilities of that kind were generously enlarged,—she did not delimit home to those four walls within which a family eats and sleeps. Though voteless, she was consciously a citizen, with civic affections and intelligence—and not alone of her city or State or nation, but of the world. Her political philosophy was in all respects democratic, her ethics had spiritual vitality, she abhorred empty piety, and she worked her passage on the voyage through life. Dr. Lund was born in Norway in 1866. She practiced dentistry successfully in Chicago for nearly fifteen years. She reared a family of children, and lived long enough to taste the joys of grandmotherhood. Meanwhile she contributed from her hard earned