

# The Public

Fifth Year.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1902.

Number 219.

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Entered at the Chicago, Ill., Post office as second-class matter.

For terms and all other particulars of publication, see last page.

The national conference of Charities and Corrections wants an investigation into the tramp problem. The tramp problem is too easy to need investigation. It is explained by the millionaire microbe. Idle luxury and idle misery always come and go together. They belong together. The millionaire hobo and the ragged hobo are products of the same cause. They are manifestations of the same social disease. They made their appearance at about the same time. Each is a parasite upon productive industry. Each is supported by the labor of the industrious. And the ragged hobo is the less virulent manifestation of the disease: he doesn't cost so much to keep.

There were good strong men in the Virginia constitutional convention, but good as they were they were not strong enough to prevent the majority from causing the convention to commit the grossest kind of breach of trust. It has overridden the limits of its authority, and while professing to be Democratic has cast democratic principles to the winds. Though required by the law that called it into being to submit its proposed constitution to popular vote, it has decided to proclaim it as the fundamental law of the state without submission. That is usurpation of power, and usurpation of power is the most malignant form of anarchy.

When a Federal judge sitting in Chicago enforced a city ordinance recently against cab drivers and in favor of a cab-driving trust based upon the concessions of a railway monopoly,

the city counsel thought it "peculiar that the enforcement of a city ordinance should be sought by injunction in the Federal court." It would have been peculiar before the passage of the Fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States for the protection of Negroes in the South. More, it would have been impossible. And why an amendment solely for the local protection of Negroes is ineffective for that purpose, but highly effective for the purpose of giving the Federal courts jurisdiction over pretty much every other local question, we do not pretend to explain. We only note the remarkable fact and hope the corporation counsel of Chicago will keep on wondering.

James J. Hill has made an epigram containing more good meat than epigrams very often do. He was speaking at a meeting of the Illinois Manufacturers' association, held in Chicago on the 3d, and in advocating desert irrigation, he said: "Land without population is a wilderness, and population without land is a mob." It was a keen thrust into the very heart of the social question, much keener and deeper than he suspected. For he thought only of the prairie and the desert, while what he said is quite as true of centers of population, which are even now inhabited and in some degree dominated by great mobs. Mr. Hill gave the reason for this: "Population without land is a mob." The population of our cities is without land, to the extent of 75 and 80 and even 90 per cent. or more. Yet these same cities have within their limits more idle land than any other kind. Here again Mr. Hill strikes true; for this idle land, these vacant city lots, this land without population, though congested populations surge about it, is

indeed a wilderness. "Land without population is a wilderness; population without land is a mob."

The anti-anarchy bill, as it has passed the lower House of Congress, would be a pretty dangerous law if it were enacted. Under one section, for instance, nobody could justify the execution of Louis XVI. or Charles I., without risking the possibilities of a heavy fine and imprisonment for from 1 to 20 years. For if he did so "with intent to cause"—and of this a Federal jury would be the judge—the murder of the president, the vice president, or the head of any foreign government, then he would be guilty of one of the "anarchy" crimes. What such a jury, selected by a marshal appointed from Washington, would do in time of bitter political excitement, it is not hard to guess. The editor of an opposition paper in such times would be wise to write with great respect of Louis XVI. and Charles I. He would better be discreet even about his allusions to Nero and Caesar, for they also were at the head of "a civilized government." It was openly said upon the floor of the House that this law was not intended to be enforced, which speaks well for the sense of humor of those who voted for it; but it is to be hoped that the more serious-minded Senate will conclude that a law which is not to be enforced had better not be enacted.

An astounding proposition, considering its source, was made last week by the Chicago Chronicle. It is astounding because proposed by a professedly Democratic newspaper; but inasmuch as this newspaper is controlled by one of the financial barons of Chicago, who wears the Democratic label but votes the Republican ticket, the matter is after all not so very surprising. It is nothing