

done one important service: it has given us a somewhat clearer view of the function of the judge and his relation to the general body politic. Because most of us come in contact with the court when it is serving as an arbitrator between persons or interests in dispute, we are likely to overlook the great part it plays in the actual administration of the government. The man who objects to the Recall principle as applied anywhere in our scheme of government is entirely consistent when he objects to the Recall of judges; but the man who accepts the Recall idea as applied to legislators and executives, but objects to its application to judges, can scarcely appreciate, it would seem, the broad legislative and executive powers that rest with the courts under our present system.

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Land Exploitation in the Philippines.

Collier's (ind.), April 29.—By the treaty with Spain, concluded in December, 1898, the United States acquired the public domain of the Philippine Islands. Of the privately owned lands, some four hundred thousand acres were known as the Friar lands. Sugar and tobacco were their principal products. To settle a bitter controversy over these Friar lands, the United States authorized the Philippine Commission to buy them. President Taft himself negotiated their purchase. The organic act passed by Congress, which gave the Filipinos their present Government, limited the sale of all public lands in the islands to forty acres to any individual and to twenty-five hundred acres to any corporation or association of persons. On August 5, 1909, President Taft signed the tariff act, which placed Philippine sugar on the free list. This gave great advantage over our beet-sugar industry and over other sugar-growing countries. One month after this act was signed John Henry Hammond of the law firm of Strong & Cadwalader of New York City, representing Horace Havemeyer, Charles Senff, and Charles J. Welch, sought the consummation, through the Bureau of Insular Affairs in Washington, of the purchase of the San Jose Friar estate of fifty-six thousand acres. Havemeyer was at the time a director of the American Sugar Refining Company. Senff was a stockholder in the Sugar Trust, had been vice-president and a director, and was then under indictment for Custom-House frauds. Welch was a sugar commission merchant. The right of these persons to so large an amount of land was questioned. The matter was referred to Attorney-General Wickersham. Henry W. Taft is a member of the firm of Strong & Cadwalader, and Mr. Wickersham was a member of the same firm at the time of his appointment as Attorney-General. That the way was clear in the opinion of Havemeyer and his associates is indicated by the fact that the purchasers had, long before the close of the deal and long before the favorable opinion of the Attorney-General was made public, improved the estate on a large scale and prepared it for cultivation. The minority report of a Congressional investigating committee decides against Attorney-General Wickersham's legal conclusions. The majority report upholds them, but recommends the amendment of the law so as to prevent further sales. To Representative John A. Martin of Colorado is due the credit for bringing

these facts to light. The San Jose estate is gone, but Martin's persistent efforts have probably defeated a general policy of land exploitation in the Philippines.

RELATED THINGS

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BY THE OPEN WINDOW.

For The Public.

When the sweet songs of poets fill my soul
 And twilight deepens in the quiet room,
 A waft from lilacs in an emerald bowl,
 I breathe the furtive zephyr's faint perfume;
 And in the mystery of dusk I dream
 A little dream of life. Before my eyes
 A train of visions drift, and drifting seem
 Future and past to blend into a wise
 And perfect scheme. How rashly we aspire
 To shape our ends, when at the best we gather
 What secrets of the Universal Plan,
 Enough to mount each step a little higher,
 Bravely, sincerely, to progress; the rather
 To justify to God the ways of man.

GERTRUDE COLLES.

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THE LEGISLATIVE TRAGEDY IN OHIO.

Herbert S. Bigelow at People's Church, Cincinnati,
 May 7, 1911.

"The end of the first inning, and the score is four to two in favor of the House." This was the comment of the Republican leader of the Ohio House of Representatives as we pored over the paper, wet from the press, giving the news of the indictment of members of the General Assembly. Three members and one employe of the Senate had been named by the grand jury, and two members of the House.

So men joked, or tried to joke, about what seems to be the greatest legislative scandal in the history of Ohio.

There are weeping women in the State today, and children who will carry to their graves dishonored names.

Men who four months ago organized the Ohio Legislature and captured the best places on the committees, and who from that vantage ground have controlled the legislative machinery of the State, are shunned today as though they already wore the convict's stripes.

To be in the atmosphere of that Assembly, to see the men upon whom the blow of the prosecutor has fallen and the men who are hourly expecting that they will be next, is to feel the awful tragedy that is being enacted at Ohio's capitol. There is much apparent hilarity over the plight of the men whose treachery had long enraged the