

machinery takes continually from the factory and mill workers of Illinois—men, women and children—cannot but rejoice that under the conditions which exist, there have come into operation at last in this State stringent rules of law for the guarding of machinery (vol. xii, p. 538). Going into effect on January 1 of this year, a new factory law provides that all dangerous machinery shall be guarded; that all dangerous projections on revolving machinery shall be countersunk; that means shall be supplied for the prompt stopping of any machine or shafting; and that passageways between machinery must be of ample width and well lighted. Neglect of these precautions on the part of many of the great employers of labor in Illinois hitherto has resulted in incalculable distress and misery. Our courts are crowded with litigated cases for personal injuries which might have been avoided had not human life and limb been accounted cheaper than protecting devices and safeguards. The new law was sorely needed and has been long delayed. Let us hope that it will be strictly enforced and accomplish its object. It will at least set up a higher ideal in the community of what is due from the employer to his workmen.

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#### **"Lead Us Not Into Temptation."**

Montreal has recently abandoned the ward system of electing members of the City Council, and at the election on November 2 that system was abandoned by the voters of Sacramento, Cal. Though a step in the right direction, that step will not insure honest, efficient government. The "Boodle Board" of San Francisco was composed of Supervisors elected at large. A weak man elected at large is as susceptible to the temptation of a bribe as a weak man elected by a ward. As was seen in San Francisco, the possessors of privilege do not hesitate to tempt with bribes weak men elected at large. It is the duty of society to shield its public servants from temptation. "Lead us not into temptation" has a broader meaning than is commonly given to that prayer. It means that we are bound to close all avenues by which our brothers, including our public servants, may be tempted; for it is immediately followed by the petition, "but deliver us from evil." The two petitions apply as well to social as to individual life and morals. Society must shield itself and its public servants from temptation and from evil by making bribery unprofitable and therefore impossible, and by abolishing the privilege of private ownership of public utilities. The initiative, referendum and recall will make bribery unprofitable. They will

deliver the public servant from great evils; they will abolish the incentive to lead our public servants into temptation.

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#### **A Test for the Thoughtfully Inconsistent.**

I would rather be a weathercock on the house of the Lord, than a peg for the tents of the wicked.

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#### **Land Monopoly in the Philippines.**

The Organic Act of the Philippine Government provided that the unapportioned public lands obtained by treaty with Spain, should not be sold in tracts of over forty acres (vol. iv, p. 734; vol. v, p. 199); and that no one corporation engaged in agriculture, should hold more than 2,500 acres. Attorney General Wickersham has ruled that the church lands bought from the Recollet friars by the United States to straighten out certain delicate semi-ecclesiastical questions which had arisen, do not come within this limitation (vol. vi, p. 585); and has upheld as legal the sale of 55,000 acres of them in one parcel to a supposed agent of the sugar trust. The decision may be legally correct, and it may also be true that the original restriction was unwise. But the argument of officials in Washington about the matter as reported in the daily press, seems highly inconsistent with the avowed purpose of that original restriction, which we were told ought to convince Anti-Imperialists that the United States would never permit its citizens "to exploit" the Philippines to the exclusion or injury of native interests. The acting head of the Bureau of Insular Affairs and the Secretary of War are quoted in the Inter Ocean as saying, "The church lands were bought for an investment. They are not public lands in the sense that the lands acquired from Spain are government lands. We want capital to go into the islands, and it would be preposterous to think that men will invest their money in the islands if they are to be limited to a little 2,500 acreage." Perhaps so, but it is no wonder that this sale "has attracted the attention of a number of members of Congress." Can it be that our "benevolent despotism" over the Philippines is after all to result in the same sort of "development" and "improvement" and "Anglo-Saxon civilization," which have developed and improved the Hawaiians off their beautiful islands and the face of the earth, and established a thriving seat of American settlement there? "Manifest destiny" have proven great words to conjure with, but the natives may not like to see the destiny so manifest!