

doubts of the advisability of permitting the people to have direct legislation, lest they injure themselves. It grows pale green under the gills at the very idea of public ownership of public functions as a principle, or the logical corollary of a principle, but is willing to permit public ownership of water supplies in most cases, and public ownership of street railways provided the private owners do not give good service.

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Democracy is merely public ownership of public functions. Anti-democracy is private ownership of public functions. The latter is more dismal as a failure than political economy ever was as a science. The former we are trying to try. Why not give it a chance? Men cannot make principles, but we can make men by giving principles free play. Justice is principles in action. Democracy is justice in action.

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The Ship Subsidy Bunco.

A committee of Congressmen which recently visited Hawaii, was gloriously deceived at San Francisco by the ship subsidy advocates of the Golden West. They were taken to the mouth of the estuary that forms Oakland harbor, from which they saw "a forest of masts of the ships that are idle because there is no subsidy to induce their owners to run them." It happens that those ships are mostly sailing vessels, which would not come under a subsidy law. On the San Francisco side of the bay they were shown one of the big Spreckels steamers, "idle two or three years because there is no ship subsidy," the Congressmen were told. But that Spreckels ship is registered as a British ship! Again, they were told that our Navy Department is chartering "subsidized foreign tramps" to bring coal from Newport News to the Pacific Coast. But foreign governments do not subsidize tramp steamers. Ship subsidy advocates are not above using deceptions similar to those practiced by protectionists.

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A Bone of Aristocracy.

"The liberty of the press must be liberally, not wantonly, construed," says an advocate of the kind of "good government" that is good only when granted to the people by self-appraised respectability and superiority. "Howbeit," continues that advocate, "the action of the Indianapolis News in traducing notable men without evidence was wanton, Judge Anderson to the contrary notwithstanding." Which means, of course,

that a paper may, with or without wantonness, traduce men who are not "notable." How the bones of aristocracy stick out through the rags of indignation! Why did not the "notable men" sue the News in its own home, Indianapolis, instead of trying to drag it to Washington? Are the Federal courts in Washington the only harbors of refuge for traduced notability?

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Mexican Despotism.

American organs of American Big Business in Mexico, are sneering at John Kenneth Turner and the American Magazine as "muck-rakers" for their exposure of Mexican barbarities. What have the rest of our people to say of these barbarities? Will they be silent in the presence of such crime, merely because some of their exploitative countrymen profit by it? Let them know that men and women in Mexico are outraged beyond the limits of civilized toleration. Turner's story proves it; and even on the surface of things it is evident in some of its aspects to ordinary observation.

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One of the facts that anyone may easily satisfy himself about, is the throttling of the opposition press in Mexico. Here is an instance in which an American citizen, a woman, is involved. Paulino Martinez, now a political exile in the United States, is a publisher of Liberal newspapers in Mexico. His wife, born in Laredo, Texas, in 1875, is now in the Belen prison, the Mexican bastille. She was placed there on the 3rd of September last by arbitrary order and for no offense against the Mexican laws. Her imprisonment is part of a systematic persecution of her husband for opposing the reelection of Diaz and Corral. No opposition to Diaz in Mexican politics is permitted. Protesting to the civilized world, Mr. Martinez makes this restrained but stirring appeal:

If, in order to defend ourselves from the evils that afflict us and from the outrages of which we are victims, we should use insult and calumny and incite revolt, nothing more natural than that the government should suppress newspapers and confiscate printing offices of those who do not know how to combat within the law. But when by means of violence and infamy, they want to silence the clamor of an oppressed people, when they perpetrate the felony of imprisoning innocent women in order to silence the men, the government that does it demonstrates its weakness by the injustice of its acts and merits the censure of the whole world—of all well born people who love justice and morality. It is necessary that all of us who are victims of the present tyranny, who do not exploit

the public treasury in order to live, nor profit by the riches of the nation to the detriment of the people, that we unite as one man to make the laws respected and to terminate the infamies heaped upon us by the abuses of power. We do not need to resort to revolt to compel respect. In that way we would put ourselves outside of the law and would give our persecutors more cause for oppression. What we need is civic courage to protest a thousand and one times against the outrages committed upon us. We ask nothing unjust. I am persecuted without having done any crime and only because I combat, within law and order, the re-election of Gen. Diaz and Ramon Corral, believing it to be noxious to the true interests of my country. I am hated because I ask liberty for an enslaved people, and in the name of outraged public nobility I condemn the scandalous abuses, the crimes, that are committed from one end to the other of the Republic. My wife is jailed only because she is my wife. She is brutally torn from her home, leaving orphans my little children, the last of which is only two months old.

The case is evidently one of autocratic suppression of the press. Mr. Martinez's compositors have been imprisoned, so has the manager of his printing office, and so has the owner of a press on which one of his papers was printed. Are none of the large newspapers of this country or Great Britain public spirited enough to investigate the truth of these complaints of arbitrary power, and either satisfy the world that they are false or else hold the Mexican government up to the execration it deserves if they are true?

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Cannonism.

Speaker Cannon is clearly within his rights when he refuses to be a Jonah for the pluto-Republican ship. He is the truest representative the Republican party has as at present organized. It would be the same rotten hulk if he were overboard as it is now. The only effect of dumping him would be to fool the innocent men in the fore-castle. Having personified Republican rottenness as "Cannonism," they might think the rottenness had been sweetened if Cannon were sacrificed. But Cannon doesn't intend to be sacrificed. No whale's belly cot for him. He believes that he represents the dominant interests in the party, and he is right. Cannon is an effect, not a cause; a mere smell and not the putridity.

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Chicago School Board Affairs.

Otto C. Schneider, who was recently ousted by his own friends from the position of president of the Chicago school board (p. 707), has taken due advantage of his annual report to read a post-

mortem lecture to those whilom friends of his—some of it wholesome and some of it only resentful.

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On the subject of the Federation of Teachers, Mr. Schneider echoes the foolish argument that public school teachers ought not to be allowed to join labor unions, since some of their pupils are children of union and some of non-union parents. It would be as sensible to say that they ought not to join a political party, since some of their pupils are children of members of one party and some of another; or a church, since some of their pupils are children of Roman Catholics, some of Protestants and some of nonreligionists.

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When Mr. Schneider argues against "headless" school boards, he makes a plausible point in citing the case of the Potter Palmer estate which saddled a \$9,000 building lot upon the board for \$25,000 through orthodox "business methods." But the board was not "headless" when (with only two dissenting members) it allowed the Chicago Tribune to bunco it (vol. ix, p. 939; vol. xii, p. 409) into striking out ten year revaluation clauses from its 99-year ground lease, thereby giving it school land which is even now worth \$50,000 a year, for only \$30,000 a year and for 80 years to come. In fact, the board had a "head" at that time. Its head was the Tribune's own lawyer.

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And now there is complaint over the fact that a pugilist of celebrity has made speeches in one of the Chicago schools—not over the speeches, for they were proper enough, but over the fact that they were made by a pugilist. It is hardly clear why a professional fighter with the unsanguinary fist should be persona non grata in school rooms where the professional fighter with death dealing machines would be welcome. The distinction cannot be due to any repugnance to brutality, for on that score prize fighters might have the advantage.

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John Z. White in Western Canada.

At Winnipeg John Z. White appears from the local press to have scored as fine a success as he did at Minneapolis and St. Paul (pp. 1035, 1046) a few days before. Before the Royal Templars, in whose hall a large audience of influential people had assembled, he made an exposition of direct legislation with so much effect that the president of the Grain Growers' Company, a farmers' organization largely represented at the meeting, moved