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Now that the people of the city of Cleveland are to vote on the question of establishing a municipal lighting system, many arguments are advanced against the project by the local privileged interests. But they are silent about their real objection. If the city were to establish its own lighting plant, one more chance for corporation "graft" would be gone. The plutocratic "grafters" are accordingly standing together. They hope against hope that this is one of the times when you can fool most of the people.

Ex-Speaker Lawrence E. Sherman, of Illinois, is reported as having said at the Rock River Chautauqua on the 8th that the "single tax would ultimately pass all property into the hands of the government; rent would represent the tax now paid; there would be no private pursuits; great bodies of workingmen would be in the government employ and the state would become a landlord." It is quite evident either that the Rock Island Chautauqua listened to a grossly ignorant lecturer, or that Mr. Sherman is the victim of a fool reporter of high degree.

After stubborn dickering, Secretary Hay has finally sold a piece of Washington real estate to the Federal government for more than twice its value as assessed for taxation. It is assessed at \$32,506, and Mr. Hay parts with it for \$68,262.60. The price he demanded was \$133,418.50, or \$100,000 more than it had paid taxes on. Inasmuch as

half the revenue of the District of Columbia is provided by Congress out of national funds, this instance of tax-dodging is of national interest. It is only fair to Mr. Hay to add, however, that he is not the only Washington tax dodger of his kind. All the rich landowners and large land speculators there are in a combine to defraud the public in this manner and to throw the burden back upon the people of the United States in general and the small home owners of the District of Columbia in particular. If the revenues of the District of Columbia were raised by taxing land values alone, the small home owner would have his taxes reduced, the people of the country at large would be relieved of the burden of providing half the expense of the local government there, and tax-dodgers like Mr. Hay would lose much unlawful plunder.

The comments of the plutocratic press upon Congressman Baker's return to the Baltimore & Ohio railroad attorney of the pass-bribe which other members of Congress have "taken and kept still" about, have the flavor of that corruption in Greece to which Demosthenes referred in his speech on the venality of public men and the decay of Greek patriotism. "What is it," asked Demosthenes, "that has ruined Greece? Envy, when a man gets a bribe; laughter, if he confesses it; mercy to the convicted; hatred of those who denounce the crime,—all the usual accompaniments of corruption."

Those Jews who have indignantly denounced as false a recent statement that Moses married a Negro, are brought around with a sudden turn by Julius F. Taylor, editor of the Chicago "Broad Ax," who reminds them of

the record in the 12th chapter of Numbers, 1st verse, which reads: "Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married, for he had married an Ethiopian woman." It is difficult to understand what bearing the question of racial intermarriage has upon the question of individual rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness regardless of race; but those white men who think it necessary to deny these rights to Negroes lest "your daughter marry a nigger," ought to be interested in that marriage of Moses. Would the foul stain of miscegenation be removed from the record of the great law giver, we wonder, if some astute commentator should show that the marriage was morganatic?

The report of a bankruptcy case in Akron, Ohio, is significant of the progress of the times. In the olden days of bankruptcy there would have seemed to be some incongruity about adjourning a bankruptcy proceeding for the purpose of allowing the bankrupt to take a pleasure trip to Europe. But that has been done in the bankruptcy proceedings of George W. Crouse at Akron. Mr. Crouse owes about \$1,900,000, and his assets amount to about \$200,000. His creditors, therefore, are likely to lose about \$1,700,000 through his default. It is this magnificent evidence of a successful career, possibly, that divests the affair of its incongruity. However that may be, the examination of the bankrupt was postponed from July to October, by the referee, to enable Mr. Crouse to take his European pleasure trip. If he does not return by that time, his pleasures are again to be preferred to his creditors' claims and a further adjourn-