

which she relates her alleged experience in the county jail.

+

In a city where such official action is possible almost anything in the way of official law breaking may occur. The city authorities guilty of that conduct, are without the slightest respect for American institutions, unless they are grossly ignorant of American history and law; and they are more dangerous criminals than the common jail bird. Did the suppressed paper contain a libel? American law provides for libelous publications, and it does not permit their seizure nor their destruction. It provides for a trial of the publishers before a jury, and punishment upon conviction. Exposures of criminal conduct by public officials are not libelous unless they are false, and it is not for the officials accused to decide that question.

+

Since the public officials of Spokane are reported by so respectable an authority as the Associated Press as having committed so great a crime against one of the most distinctive of American institutions and the plainest and most fundamental of American laws, we may assume that the following accusations by the Workingman's Paper of Seattle of December 11 (a Socialist publication) are probably true also:

Some of the boys recently released from the city jail in Spokane report police brutality there that seems almost incredible. . . . One of the most devilish of these tortures, and one that apparently leaves no marks upon most of the prisoners, is the system of changing them from hot to cold cells, exposing them to all the suffering that such a change entails. . . . Recently there was a wholesale sweating of prisoners in the hot cell. They were mostly men from Chicago, who turned out en masse for arrest the day after the arrest of Miss Flynn and others at the Hall meeting. So angry were the police with them for their method of showing their contempt for the police that they decided to give them a lesson. As a result 29 men were packed into the hot cell and sweated from 12 o'clock noon until 10 p. m. So close were the men packed they were unable to take their coats off, even though they were being stifled by the heat. This cell, known in police circles as "The Dungeon," is air tight when the sheet iron door is closed, and is heated by steam. It has no ventilation whatsoever except when the door is open, so perhaps the condition of the air in this second "black hole," after 20 or 30 men have been confined in it for several hours, may be safely termed indescribable. The door would be kept shut until the cries of the men warned the guards that it must be opened or they would be stifled. So hot is this cell that in a very short time one's clothes are wet with perspiration. After the required period is served in this torture chamber the prisoners, in their weakened condition, are taken to cells which are

exposed to cold drafts, and there they freeze until their clothes become dry and their bodies more or less accustomed to the great change in temperature.

+

It is hard to tell from the reports what all this barbarism is about. Reportorial lucidity seems to be as scarce in Spokane as official humanity. One may infer, however, that a Socialist propaganda by speakers on the streets was obstructed by the police on the ground that it impeded traffic, and that the street speakers, claiming that this was a pretense and false at that, persisted in their outdoor oratory. From that controversy the idea seems to have gone out that Spokane was suppressing Socialist meetings, and Socialist agitators consequently poured into Spokane. Whatever may be the merits of this controversy, it is certain that the action of the authorities, indicated by the above quotations, is vastly more disorderly than any disorder they charge to the agitators they are persecuting. So far as it is possible to form a judgment from the conflicting and inadequate reports, the object of the authorities appears to be less to maintain order on the streets than to suppress opinions to which they object.

+ +

Francis M. Marquis.

An old soldier of the Civil war, ardent follower of Henry George for twenty years, active friend of *The Public* from its start, and in his later days a devoted Christian Scientist, was Francis M. Marquis, who died two months ago at the National Military Home in Kansas. In early youth he served in a regiment of his native State, Ohio, and until his death he carried with him a troublesome and debilitating battle wound. Oregon offered him a home for a time in Grass Valley, and work at managing a local paper there; but after the early nineties he was an inmate at first of the soldiers' home in Milwaukee and latterly of that in Kansas. At the time of his death he was only 65. He was a Democrat by party affiliation and a democrat in principle and from conviction.

+ +

The Civic Advent of Women.

More than one purpose has been served by the strike of working women in New York who make shirt waists (p. 1133), and against whom the police authorities are discriminating insolently and lawlessly. It has shown a good many people that, after all, we do not live under a government of impartial law, as some of us so fondly boast when we say that this is a government of law and not of men. The action of the police authori-

ties when they discovered that they had caught a rich woman in the net they had spread for a poor one (p. 1133), was a revelation to many an honest-minded woman of wealth. It has had the effect, too, of intensifying the equal suffrage movement by lifting it high above the level of a feminine fad and making it an obvious civic necessity.

+

The importance of the direct influence of women in civic affairs could not have been better demonstrated than it has been in the course of that shirt-waist makers' strike. Not only has this strike exposed the police authorities as in collusion with employers who, because "business is business," mercilessly degrade working women, but its police court incidents have exposed the inhumanity that prevails in those "poor man's" courts—a wretched inhumanity of which well-to-do men have long been cognizant but of which well-to-do women have until now been decently—oh, so very decently—ignorant.

+

One of the notable occurrences of the strike in this respect is the awful revelation it has made to Mrs. Belmont, to say nothing of the agreeable revelation it is making of her. Interested in the cause of overworked and underpaid and police-hounded working girls in this strike, Mrs. Belmont went to a police court between night and dawn to become bail for such working girls as had been arrested for "picketing," and there, while waiting six hours for the hopper to grind out its grist of misery, she saw sights that may well have made her blood run cold with horror and hot with indignation. This is what she has said about it:

During the six hours spent in that police court I saw enough to convince me and all who were with me beyond the smallest doubt of the absolute necessity for woman's suffrage—for the direct influence of women over judges, jury and policemen, over everything and everybody connected with the so-called courts of justice. A hundredfold was it impressed upon me in the cases of the women of the streets who were brought before the judge. Every woman who sits complacently amidst the comforts of her home, or who moves with perfect freedom and independence in her own protected social circle, and says, "I have all the rights I want," should spend one night in the Jefferson Market court. She would then know that there are other women who have no rights which man or law or society recognizes. The necessary publicity cannot be obtained through the newspapers. They do not find it profitable to give space to experiences affecting the strata of society to which the majority of the people who come here belong. There can be no doubt that our police courts are a disgrace to the city. It is the

duty of the women to take up this burden, as well as it is the duty of the men to permit the women to share such responsibilities. The men of this country have become so absorbed with business matters and money-getting that they have permitted the social laws to drift into a state that will, sooner or later, become intolerable. The entire social structure is wrong from the foundation.

+

Another woman of the privileged classes whose sympathies have been aroused through the shirt-waist makers' strike is Anne Morgan, a daughter of Pierpont Morgan. What she is reported as saying and doing since her awakening to the misery in the midst of which she lives in luxury is indicative of a serious purpose, which cannot as a rule but be questioned when the rich set out to help the working poor. Her interest is apparently not of the charity-ball order. Charity ball sympathizers with the working poor do not become strike leaders, as both Miss Morgan and Mrs. Belmont have done. This is the hopeful sign for them. From that point of vantage they must soon begin to ask why it is that manufacturers fight their employes over pitiful questions of wages—not merely the superficial why, but the profound why,—and when that question challenges them, the seriousness of their purpose will be put to a supreme test.

+ +

Charity Balls.

Dancing luxuriously for the relief through our alms of those we impoverish by our privileges, may be an agreeable kind of penance; but isn't it somewhat suggestive of those follies of the predatory rich of France which provoked the excesses of the Revolution?

+ +

Maintaining International Peace.

In a certain church organ we read that "it stands to reason that we cannot tolerate forever these disturbances in Uncle Sam's back yard," referring to the disturbances in Nicaragua. But when did the Central American countries become our "back yard?" Is Canada our front yard?

+ + +

BRITISH DEMOCRACY.

Americans are given to boasting of the superiority of our form of government. Yet it is in fact inferior to the British form, in all the essentials of a mechanism for government by the people.

They do have a life tenure king in Great Britain, but he is shorn of all monarchic power. Even the executive veto upon legislation, which