

cause they believe it will enable them to prevent the imposition of the Singletax on their district; for instance, the assessor of the little town of Oxnard, where the sugar refinery pays 20 per cent of the total town tax.



William S. U'Ren writes that the California fight is helping them in Oregon, where corporation influences have proposed an amendment for the repeal of home rule in taxation. We all feel confident that the California amendment will be adopted.

EDWARD P. E. TROY.



## THE LABOR WAR IN DULUTH.

Duluth.

Held by the court: That it is the first duty of a street railway company to serve the public; that the public need not walk while the company is coming to terms with its men. Therefore let mandamus issue to resume service.

It does not seem to the court's self that this is much of a remedy, but no other appears. Whether this mandamus order is valid will be known some time next summer when the Supreme Court has passed on the company's appeal from the order.

The strike which provoked this proceeding has been long brewing. Accumulated grievances of wages, hours and conditions were brought to the company last summer. The grievances were adjusted after a fashion and the men who brought them to the company were let out. Organization was then undertaken secretly.

A week before the strike began, nine men, officers of the union, and new recruits, were meeting in Axel Peterson's kitchen. Came to the door two subalterns of the company, brushed past Peterson, who would have kept them on the porch, went through the house to the kitchen. At the end of the week those nine men were discharged, "for the good of the service."

The union men walked out at once, about one-fourth of the men; most of the remainder quit during the day from sympathy, fear or pressure of class opinion. Though the management was taken by surprise, strikebreakers were on their way from Chicago six hours before the walkout.

For three days there was considerable turbulence, followed by similar disturbances in Superior, where the street railway is operated by the same company. Cars were stoned, barns were bombarded, a few men were beaten and there was that touch of terror which is always bred by a touch of tyranny.

A mayor's committee of fifty, in which the business element predominated, offered its services to both sides in the controversy. The manager of the street railway stood pat that there was no strike and that he had nothing to arbitrate.

Popular opinion is largely with the strikers. Many people wear buttons, "We Walk." The newspapers are talking public ownership, led by the morning paper whose leading stockholder happens to be interested in street railway stock. The strikers have borne themselves well; there is no charge that they were mixed in the rioting and in a number of cases

they have shown their good faith in helping to keep order.

The chief exhibit so far is the inadequacy of any legal remedy. The city brought this action for mandamus and the court in granting the order made the comment that it was not a very effective remedy at best, but no other seemed available. The memorandum admits that it is little more than an admonition and that the jurisdiction is open to attack.

Outside of legal tradition another opinion is rising. The court's opinion runs clearly that the first duty of a public service corporation is to furnish public service. So to the layman it appears that another course is equitable. If the company defaults in its interest payments a public administrator is appointed. How much more should a public administrator be put in charge when the company defaults in its more fundamental duty.

The second phenomenon of importance is felt rather than seen. The public is strongly moved to believe that private management of a public utility is incompetent. The men on strike may be defeated; but the company has lost.

J. S. P.

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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### A CORRECTION.

Constantinople, Turkey, September 19, 1912.

On page 804 of your issue for August 23rd, I was astonished to read: "The permanence and bitterness of the Albanian revolt rests on the fact that the Albanians are Christians under Mohammedan rule." As The Public is generally well informed and accurate in its statements, I know you will be glad to correct such an error. The Albanian nation is mixed in its religious affiliations, as it contains tribes which are Greek Orthodox, Latin Catholic and Mohammedans. The Albanian revolt against Turkish rule has never rested on religious grounds. In their enmity to the Turk, the Moslem joins hands with the Christian. In fact, the revolting tribes this summer are wholly Moslem. There are no Christians at present among those who are fighting the Turks. Last year the revolting tribes were mostly Christian. The Albanian question is a racial and economic one.

HERBERT ADAMS GIBBONS.

[The statement in our News Narrative of which the foregoing is a correction, was based on a current dispatch from the East. Had we verified the assertion by reference to the Statesmen's Yearbook, as we usually do in such cases, we would have avoided the regrettable error. As we now understand the matter, of the inhabitants of Macedonia, which includes Albania, about 1,300,000 are Christians, some 800,000 are Moslems and probably about 75,000 are Jews. We earnestly thank our correspondent for his correction, and also for the light he throws on a situation of increasing interest, since it is a factor in the war now opening in the Balkan Peninsula. —Editors of The Public.]



Reason is the life of the law; nay, the common law itself is nothing else but reason.—Sir Edward Coke.