

are not contractual and can be abrogated at the will of the sovereign power.

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The Negro Massacre at Atlanta.

Little is lacking now to demonstrate the injustice toward the Negro of the white people who administer affairs in Atlanta. They make loud professions, but their ignoble action speaks louder than their smooth words. A local newspaper, by false reports of Negro outrages upon white women, stirred up a murderous white mob, which wantonly assassinated a score or more of peaceable, decent and law-abiding Negroes (pp. 601, 607). This reign of white terror lasted long enough for a few practically helpless Negroes to fight back and kill a white man or two in self-defense. Now note the official action. The grand jury indicts 60 Negroes for murder, and 16 white men for riot! If that is white Atlanta's official expression on the subject, then it is useless for anybody to pretend that Atlanta has any sense of justice. The white assaults upon the Negroes were horribly savage; but worse than the savagery of the assaults is the abject cowardice of the white community which deliberately tolerates them.

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In this connection it is necessary to state that Hoke Smith's campaign for governor is not blameless for the assassinations at Atlanta. Involved in that campaign was the railroad problem, growing out of the proposed extension of a State-owned line; and at the North, Hoke Smith's triumph (pp. 515, 554) was attributed to his leadership on the right side of that question. But it now appears that his campaign was much more pronounced for the subjugation of the Negro. It was a revival of the intense Negro-hating spirit. Happily, however, Georgia has public men of the white race who while not standing for privileged corporation interests, do stand for genuine democracy and human justice regardless of race. The reign of white thuggery in the South seems secure at present, but there is reason to believe, and the very virulence of these anti-Negro outbreaks confirms the belief, that a wholesome white sentiment is already crystallizing against it.

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The Hearst Campaign.

If the reports that reach Chicago of the respective speeches of Hughes and Hearst are fair, Hughes is losing ground and Hearst is gaining (pp. 607, 608). And by loss and gain we do not allude alone to voting strength, although the ob-

servations fits also in that respect, but to evidence of human worth in the candidates themselves. The speeches of Mr. Hughes appear to be intensifying the public feeling that he is a stalking horse for rich and respectable grafters, while Mr. Hearst's are justifying the belief of his original supporters that he is dominating and not bargaining with the corrupt political machines. To all appearances now, his policy is to drive the plutocratic interests and their corrupt retainers over to the "establishment across the way," and to trust to the consequent accessions to himself of honest and democratic Republicans. Possibly this is not his policy, but everything he has said in his campaign speeches suggests it.

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Judicial Despotism.

Reports are current that a Denver judge, Peter Palmer, has announced that he will not naturalize any applicant for citizenship who is a socialist or in sympathy with socialism. He might with as much political and legal propriety refuse to naturalize persons who belong to trade unions or sympathize with them, or persons who belong to the Democratic, the Republican or the Prohibition party or sympathize with it. When the judiciary begin to discriminate against their adversaries in political opinion, it is time for other people to begin taking an account of stock to see if mayhap some of those liberties of which at the beginning we were eloquently warned to be jealous, be not leaking away.

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Government Ownership in Japan.

Japan having decided to nationalize railways, six out of the seventeen to be taken over will be purchased before the end of the present year. The mileage of these six is over 1,500 miles, and the total price is \$123,500,883. The significance of the figures is not very clear in the report, but apparently the railroad owners are getting pay for a good deal of water, which would imply that they have interests in Japan as well as here.

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Timber-land Taxation.

A sensible grievance and a sensible manner of considering it are stated in a recent issue of the American Lumberman. The grievance is the taxation of standing timber. It is easy to understand that this may stimulate reckless waste; for, as the Lumberman says, timber is a crop differing from other crops only in the longer time it takes to mature. If this crop is taxed heavily every