

The Public

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EDITORIAL

School Teachers' Unions.

Dr. Maxwell, the superintendent of public schools in New York City, is reported as saying he does "not see that any good can come of teachers forming a labor union." Perhaps his democratic sight is poor. Nobody will deny that good has come of it in Chicago, except the persons and interests that didn't wish to see any good come of it. Are not public school teachers workers? Do they not serve the community, instead of sponging upon it? Their interests, then, are with all the other servants of the public good. Dr. Maxwell may be an excellent man, a good public servant, an efficient educator, and all that; we don't know; but "dollars to doughnuts" he is welcome among the spongers, and wouldn't be if he *could* see good from teachers forming labor unions. Besides this, a greater and more distinguished educator than Dr. Maxwell has said that Chicago teachers were improved as teachers by their participation in affairs after they joined the Federation of Labor.

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The New Journalism.

Two editors of the Christian Science Monitor, that national daily newspaper, published at Boston, which is one of the best and most successful as well as cleanest of all the newspapers of the United States, gave their views on journalism at a meeting at the Auditorium, Chicago, last week. They are John J. Flinn and Archibald Mc-

Lellan. No empty compliments did these men pay to newspapers such as newspaper men are on such occasions tempted into. While Mr. Flinn and Mr. McLellan ranked the newspaper function high in the realm of human service, they indulged in no boasting about their craft as if it were actually what it ought to be. But they did place the responsibility where it belongs—or rather, they removed it from where it does not belong. "I have worked close to some of the greatest newspaper men in the United States," said Mr. Flinn, "and for many years have been intimately acquainted with most of the newspaper men in Chicago, not only the older, but the younger generation of them, and I can say that their aspirations are the highest and they are working, just as far as they know how, to give the public what the public wants. Newspaper men desire to print good newspapers. I know that the majority of newspaper men dislike to write or see published trivial or worthless matter in their papers." If to his assurance that newspaper men are trying to give the public what it wants "as far as they know how," Mr. Flinn had added, "within the limits of their liberties," his statement would have been complete. But maybe he did; for our quotation is from a daily newspaper report, and the liberties of reporters and editors do not always permit exact reporting.

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Emboldened by certain departures of the weekly and monthly press, and also by the success of the daily Christian Science Monitor, the editor and publisher of "The Fourth Estate" announces a daily newspaper venture which all of us may well watch with some concern and much hope. It is to be published at New York, beginning in December, under the name of The News Letter. The price, five cents, is to be high enough to make it independent of all support except from readers; and its central idea is thus explained by its projector, Ernest F. Birmingham: "It will rest upon the thought that with the multiplication of periodicals the time has come for a daily which will condense and digest not only the reviews and the standard weeklies of the world, but the daily newspapers themselves, and not only for the benefit of the reader day after day, but as a matter of historical reference for public and individual libraries." Mr. Birmingham catches the right theory of news for such a paper when he says that The News Letter "will not pay the usual attention to what are known as newspaper sensations," meaning by this not only "Thaw trials and matters of that kind, but the San Francisco earthquake, the burning of Baltimore, the attempted assassination of

Mayor Gaynor;" for he assumes that readers of The News Letter "will on the day of any great sensation like the Gaynor shooting, buy every newspaper on the news stands as fast as it comes off the press." The ideal of this new daily is precisely what the readers of The Public will recognize this paper as having aimed at for twelve years or more, except that a daily cannot be expected to systematize its news as a weekly paper may. It can have better facilities, however, for verifying news reports and for so extending its service as to cover fully and accurately the serious news in its own field which sensational newspapers either ignore, falsify or minimize. In the way of prophecy, Mr. Birmingham announces the rapid coming, on a comprehensive scale, of a kind of daily journalism which the trade papers foreshadowed, and of which The Public has been a pioneer in the weekly field. "I will make right here the prediction," he says, "that in five or at the most ten years from now there will be in the city of New York perhaps four or six newspapers of large circulation catering to 'the masses,' as we call them, and there will be a very considerable number of specialized daily papers, each covering a distinct field and appealing to a certain limited class of readers of similar desires and tastes."

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Edward Osgood Brown.

Judge Brown, who served six years in the appellate branch of the Circuit Court in Illinois (vol. xii, p. 554; vol. xiii, p. 1010), making a judicial reputation second to none in the State, is again a candidate for election to the bench. His name will appear on the ballot in the Democratic column, for he is a Democrat by party affiliation. But better still, he is a democrat in that broad way in which Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln were democrats. It was Judge Brown's marked ability as a jurist that caused his selection by the Supreme Court for appellate work; and his standing may be inferred from the fact that at the Bar Association primary—an association overwhelmingly Republican in politics—he is endorsed by 83 per cent, with the second highest vote on all judicial candidates, and that vote only 81 short of the highest. The Chicago Tribune, a Republican paper with improving tendencies, has recognized his judicial worth by cautiously yet clearly adopting a suggestion that the vacancy caused by the death of the original Republican candidate be left unfilled, saying: "Judge Brown is a man of high character and exceptional legal and judicial equipment, and his defeat was a recognized loss to the local judiciary;