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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL.

"Business"	793
Chicago's New Lord and Master	793
Subsidies	793
A Magazine of Fundamental Democracy	793
A Curious Suggestion	794
A Monometallic Problem	794
Special Assessments	795
Investing in Municipal Growth	795
Independent Candidates	795
Labor Federation and Union League Club.....	795
How "Business Men" Do It	796
Raids Upon the Chicago School Fund.....	796
Called to Account	797
Is the Chicago Tribune a Single Tax Convert?.....	797

NEWS NARRATIVE:

Currency Reform	799
The American Federation of Labor.....	799
The National Congress on Uniform Divorce Laws.....	799
Advance of the People's Rule Movement.....	800
Referendum at Fort Wayne	800
The Standard Oil Trust	800
Prosecutions of Officials in San Francisco	801
The President at Panama	801
Cuba Restless	801
The Woman Suffrage Agitation in England.....	801
France Struggles Again with Her Church and State Problem	801
Notes	802
Press Opinions	802

RELATED THINGS:

The Dignity of Labor (verse)	804
The Farmers' Interest in an Elastic Tax System (Purdy)	804
A Negro Who Is Thinking	805
What the Philippine Independence Party Stands For (Fortich)	806
The Responsibility of the Church for the Spirit of Graft (Whitehead)	807
On the Ladder (verse)	809

BOOKS:

The Literary Career of Ernest Crosby	809
The Old Monopoly Patents	813
Pamphlets	816
Periodicals	815

CARTOON:

The Unearned Increment	814
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EDITORIAL

"Business."

The art of getting something for nothing without giving the getter away.

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Chicago's New Lord and Master.

E. H. Harriman is the man. So says the Chicago Tribune, the organ of the local interests. "He is already in control of the subway," says the Tribune, "and is reaching out for the electric

lighting and the telephone privileges of the city." The Tribune, which would doubtless throw the school system into the bargain as "lanniappe" is of course delighted.

* *

Subsidies.

The plunderhunger of the "business" interests and their Republican coadjutors, is enormous and insistent beyond parallel. When "business" interests want to go into business, their first demand is for a subsidy out of the public treasury. Here, for illustration, is Secretary Root's speech at Kansas City on the 20th. Steamship lines being needed between this country and South America, he asks for a subsidy. Farmers are never given a subsidy. Workingmen are allowed no subsidy. Storekeepers are not subsidized. But big capitalists—they must have subsidies or they can't live. Without genuine business ability, this class seem unable to make any enterprise pay unless they have a special privilege from government giving them monopoly power over the people, or a subsidy out of the government treasury which depends upon taxing the people. When they are not legalized thieves, they are arrogant beggars. Abolish the protective tariff between this country and South America, and steamship lines would be making money before a subsidy bill could pass to third reading. But there's the rub! The protective tariff is itself a subsidy, only in another form.

* *

A Magazine of Fundamental Democracy.

The Times Magazine, published at New York, which has just come before the public as the successor to the Twentieth Century Home, announces its intention to "stand for fundamental democracy," and to make for itself a place as "an organ of expression for the earnest, intelligent and fearless minds of this and other lands." The December number not only gives high promise in this direction, but also in the direction of a thoroughly readable periodical. A remarkably attractive innovation is the illustration of the editorials with sketchy colored pictures which catch the spirit of the editorial thought. The editorials themselves take first place in the magazine, and are worth it both for their wholesome substance and their pleasing form.

* *

In declaring that the Times Magazine is for

individualism, the first editorial strikes a true note: "That which commonly goes by the name of individualism in this country," it says, "is too often a transparent and a most iniquitous fraud. It is a compound of muddled thinking, greed and graft, which amounts in practice to individualism for a privileged class. Real individualism is democratic. It is the individualism of a fair chance and fair play for every natural person born into the world. Fraudulent individualism is the bastard offspring of economic privilege in alliance with political corruption. Real individualism will get its chance only when we see that economic privilege must be abolished, and political corruption fought to the last ditch, and seeing, gird up our loins for the struggle." And then the whole matter is summed up with a demand for "individualism for all of us and not for the privileged few." This analysis is perfect. The much vaunted "individualism" of the Interests is the individualism of piracy, and it is this that has given true individualism a bad name among people who mean better than they know.

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The fiction of this number of the magazine is entertaining, among the contributors in that class being Jack London, Basil King, Zona Gale and Broughton Brandenburg. Upton Sinclair describes his colony experiment with a deft literary touch, and Alfred Henry Lewis tells the story of Tammany Hall. What promises to be both a novel and an instructive production is the "Natural History of American Morals," by Franklin H. Giddings, professor of sociology and the history of civilization in Columbia University, the first installment of which is a delightful bit of serious-minded writing in the light magazine style. Among the other contributions is a paper by Luke Grant, one of the best newspaper reporters who make a specialty of labor subjects. Mr. Grant's summary of the effect of the injunction in labor disputes is the most complete we have seen, and absolutely judicial. It is brief enough to quote in full:

It has benefited the employer by giving men hired to fill the places of strikers a greater sense of security, so that fewer of them have been induced to leave their employment.

It has lessened the respect of the average workingman for the courts, and tended to embitter him against the judicial branch of our government.

It has failed as a preventive of violence in strikes, but has, more than any other weapon used in industrial disputes, engendered class hatred.

It has cost both employers and labor unions a vast amount of money, although the expense to the union

has been reduced in recent years, because few unions now contest the issuance of an injunction.

It has forced the American Federation of Labor into the political arena, the effects of which on the political future of the country cannot at this time be foretold.

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According to its announcement, the Times Magazine intends to cover the whole field of democratic interest and to look into all the byways of autocracy. This draws it into the public school controversy, of which it justly says: "By sheer force of the universal tendency to follow lines of least resistance, our centralized school system has more and more developed the characteristics of a department store business; teachers have become a class of intellectual hired help; principals are foremen; superintendents are little more than heads of departments." A magazine of this broad democracy is needed, and we believe the Times Magazine will meet the demand. Most of our magazine literature is inspired by currents of thought generated in plutocratic clubs and aristocratic drawing rooms, and the rest is more or less shackled by counting room fears. A magazine that will supply periodical literature of as high a grade and interesting a character as is supplied by the other magazines, and yet always ring true to the democratic key note, ought to have a warm welcome alike in Great Britain, in Australia, and here at home; and such a magazine, of the highest order of excellence, there is every reason to believe from a perusal of the first number the Times Magazine is destined to be.

* *

A Curious Suggestion.

Readers of the Auburn (N. Y.) Citizen must have been surprised to see in that paper of the 14th, in a criticism of the people of San Francisco for excluding Japanese children from the schools, the remark that "a social or ethical question should not be allowed to interfere with the great efforts making to hold and extend the trade and prosperity of the United States." If, as is probably the fact, the printer has turned "ethnic" into "ethical," the remark is comprehensible; but we should think the Auburn Citizen the last paper to subordinate material prosperity to ethical questions.

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A Monometallic Problem.

When Bryan made his bimetallic campaign, the monometallists pictured the public dangers of a debased currency, and therefore, as they said, they opposed silver coinage. They were told in reply