The Public

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EDITORIAL

Vera Cruz Should Be Evacuated.

The story of a clash at Vera Cruz between General Funston and Carranza may or may not be true. There is just enough possibility of its truth to make clear the urgent need of speedy withdrawal from that place. Keepng soldiers in foreign territory is not the easiest way to maintain peace. Besides, with the departure of Huerta all cause for further occupation of Vera Cruz was eliminated. Let Funston and his army be recalled.

S. D.

Brutality.

First it was the "unspeakable Turk" who was charged by Christian nations with reverting to savagery, and practicing indescribable cruelties. Then it was the Bulgarians and Greeks. Later, the Mexicans furnished incidents to point a moral and adorn a tale. Now the Servians complain of the Austrian treatment of prisoners and non-combatants, and the Germans are condemned by the Belgians. But these things are not new. There were charges and counter charges between the armies of our own Civil War, in the war of the Revolution, and in all other wars. Cruelty and brutality are the inseparable accompaniments of war. Let no one be surprised if the greatest war of history marks the lowest depths of human passion.

S. C.

The Difference.

The difference between "civilized" and uncivilized warfare has been made clear. In uncivilized warfare looting and pillage of captured cities is allowable, as also is indiscriminate killing of non-combatants. In "civilized" warfare looting and pillage is forbidden except through levy of a tax on a captured city. Such a tax must be no greater than the sum total of wealth which the city contains. In killing non-combatants the "civilized" warrior must confine himself to drop-

ping bombs on them from airships, to laying mines to blow up ships in which they may be sailing, and to starving them by cutting off their food supply. While this may explain the difference between two kinds of warfare, it still remains a mystery why one kind should be called "civilized."

S. D.

Military Justice.

How military courts arrive at verdicts in cases of soldiers charged with misconduct may be judged by an excerpt from the finding of the court martial in Colorado which acquitted the officers and men accused of responsibility for the Ludlow massacre. The excerpt follows:

The court finds the accused Karl E. Linderfelt, first lieutenant second infantry, national guard of Colorado, guilty of the facts as charged, that is to say that part of the specification 1, charge 6, reading as follows:

Having then and there a certain deadly weapon, to wit: a United States Springfield rifle, did then and there with said weapon, commit an assault upon and against one Louis Tikas—but by reason of the justification as shown in the evidence adduced before the court attaches no criminality thereto.

Tikas was said to have been a prisoner when killed. Since complaints of violation of the rules of war are coming from invaded European countries, it would be interesting to know if this Colorado verdict resembles the kind that a court martial in a European army would return. If it does, why bother with protests?

Savagery and War.

That the victors in Europe are behaving like "defenders of law and order" at Ludlow, Colorado, is the gist of numerous complaints. It would not be surprising if it should be true that war has the same effect in East Prussia and Belgium on those engaged therein that it has in the mining regions of the United States, in the Philippines and in Mexico. Just how much protection there is to the conquered in the rules of war may be realized on noting the verdicts of military courts in this country.

S. D.

What the War Teaches.

Of what avail to the French people is now the money squandered for many years in maintaining a big army and navy? What good has it done them? It has not only failed to bring so poor a return as revenge for the defeat of 1870, but it has failed to avert another invasion and another infliction of whatever humiliation there may be in being overwhelmed through superior skill or superior physical force. And all this might have been avoided. There were better means of defense to be had than armies, navies or fortifications. There was a chance to be revenged on the Hohenzollerns without sacrifice of life or property.

Had the French republic instituted true liberty and true equality, no other defense against foreign aggression would have been needed. True liberty is "The full freedom of each bounded by the equal freedom of every other." True equality is "the equal right to the use and enjoyment of all natural opportunities to all the essentials of happy, healthful human life." With such liberty and equality there would have been in France no involuntary poverty and none of the evils that result therefrom. There would have been employment for all who would want it and all would have received the full product of their labor. The country would have been a haven of refuge for the oppressed and poverty stricken of all Europe. The people of Germany, so far from allowing themselves to be led into regarding France as a menace, would have insisted on being granted French liberty and prosperity. This would have necessitated abolition of privilege, including the privilege of the Hohenzollern family to rule by divine right. France would have had her revenge and have achieved it in a worthy manner.

Just as the French people might have securely fortified themselves against foreign attack by establishing economic justice at home, so might the German people in the same way—without a single soldier or fortification—have erected an impregnable defense against aggression. No appeals of chauvinistic demagogues could then have led the French people to permit the defeat of 1870 to rankle within them for forty-four years. True liberty and true equality would create true fraternity—"that sympathy which links together those who struggle in a noble cause, that would live and let live, that would help as well as be helped, that in seeking the good of all, finds the good of each." How much better that would have been than dependence on the mailed fist which can bring to the nation no other satisfaction than tickling of the vanity of shallow-minded ones—a poor recompense for the grief and bereavement that even victory has brought into thousands of German homes, for the increased arrogance of military rulers and

for the additional strength to tyranny and oppression which comes with military success. But it is not too late for the nations of Europe, victors as well as vanquished, to learn this lesson and profit thereby. It is time that the American people learned it also. Perhaps they will.

S. D.

Supporting the Red Cross.

Why is it that the militarists provide for all the eventualities of war except adequate care of the wounded? Money is poured into forts and ships, arms and armor, as though the state held the purse of Fortunatus; but small, indeed, is the amount expended for hospitals and other means of caring for the wounded. The militarist organizes only for destruction, and leaves to his peaceful brother the task of gathering up and preserving the fragments of humanity that are left in the wake of war.

S. C.

Thrice Armed.

The old adage that they who seek justice must come with clean hands is fraught with dramatic meaning at this time. Had we set aside the Hay-Pauncefote treaty—as some of our citizens tried so hard to do a short time ago—we should now be estopped from criticising the nations of Europe for disregarding treaty obligations. The greatest contribution this nation can make toward international comity is scrupulously to observe its own obligations.

S. C.

A Serious Charge.

Those who insist that the European people endorse their rulers' action in bringing on the war forget that they thereby indict the intelligence and humanity of whole nations.

S. D.

Boats for Some.

A steamboat plying on Lake Michigan was discovered to be on fire when a few miles from the Chicago harbor. The wireless would not work. As aid could not be summoned, the captain crowded on all steam, and reached the pier barely in time to save the 250 passengers—mostly women and children. What a pleasant reflection it would have been for those Congressmen who have striven to keep the "boats-for-all-and-men-to-handle-them" provision out of the Seamen's bill, had this fire started a few minutes earlier! Which is it to be, gentlemen, boats for all, with sailors to handle them, or boats for some with green hands to man them? And when is it to be?

S. C.

Pass the Seamen's Bill.

American registry for foreign built ships is not enough to restore a healthy merchant marine. The Swedish, Norwegian, or other neutral shipping has an advantage in low-priced crews that will deter foreign ship owners from American enrollment. The President has been given power to suspend temporarily our navigation laws, but that is a poor way for a law-abiding nation to proceed. We need a fixed policy along which to work; and that policy must give both the seamen and the ship owner freedom. Ship owners must be free to buy as cheaply as their competitors; and seamen must have the liberties of all other labor, that of quitting their job when the ship is in port.

Give the low-waged foreign crews the right to leave their ships in American ports, and immediately their wages will rise to the American level. American ship owners cannot compete in overseas trade unless they have as cheap ships and crews as their competitors, or a subsidy to equalize this difference. The ship registry bill has removed one handicap; the La Follette Seamen's Bill will remove the other. To give the President power to suspend the navigation laws is merely a temporary relief; and gains made under such conditions would largely be lost when peace returns to Europe. A merchant marine that is worth having can be built up only by basing it on justice to all.

S. C.

Providing for the Unemployed.

Attention is called to the fact that small provision has been made by the state for unemployed women. A larger proportion of the seasonal employments are filled by women than by men, yet comparatively little attempt has been made toward tiding them over the slack or dull seasons. As put by the Chicago Tribune:

> **While there are, however, a hundred and one places where the unemployed man can spend the day, and even night, where he can find shelter from cold and rain, where he can even get food free, the number of places open to the unemployed woman is small. She cannot spend the day in a saloon. She cannot sleep in a hallway. She does not enjoy a man's privilege of panhandling. She cannot beg in the street the price of a cup of coffee.**

Woman's entrance into politics will soon cure

this superficial defect. Politicians seeking votes will be eager to do all and more for women than has been done for men. That is one reason for the suffrage. But will the establishment of these shelters, bureaus and agencies really dispose of the problem? In the midst of ever increasing wealth, and with the accompanying advantage of science and invention, must women and men depend upon the charity of the state to tide them over from one job to another? Suppose a slight re-arrangement were made in the management of the factors in production. Labor we have freed. How would it do to free the materials on which labor works? The primitive savage, with free access to natural opportunities, managed to live and reproduce his kind. Must we, armed with the thousand and one things that he lacked be content with less? Build shelters for unemployed women, but build them in such fashion that they can later on be used as libraries and museums to house the relics of an age when men and women seeking work were unable to find it.

S. C.

Woman Suffrage and Industrial Disorder.

Opposition to woman suffrage resorts to the same form of defective reasoning which leads tariff advocates to attribute low wages in England to "free trade," and to see no significance in the lower wages of protected countries of Continental Europe. Such reasoning is now indulged in by the Man Suffrage Association of New York. In a circular letter, designed to impress business men with the idea that equal suffrage means violence and disorder, it attributes to that democratic reform the industrial troubles of Colorado. That there have been similar troubles in places where women do not vote has no more significance to this association than the low wages of labor in protected Italy has to the protectionist who speaks of "free trade" England. One of the firms to which this letter was sent was that of Robert H. Ingersoll and Brother, the watch manufacturers, who returned the following reply:

August 14. 1914.

Mr. Everett P. Wheeler, Chairman,
Man Suffrage Association, 27 William St.,
New York City.

Dear Sir: You are correct as to this firm being interested in manufacture and other things mentioned in your letter. We are not, however, impressed that it is necessary to destroy all democratic movements in order to maintain these interests. The Woman Suffrage movement is one of democracy, toward which I hope this country is progressing, in spite of straws thrown in its path, some of which are hinted at in the circular accompanying your letter, the purport, however, of which is not, to our mind, very lucidly stated. Colorado illustrates some things other than those you call attention to, notably the evils of monopoly of natural resources, which is in fact at the bottom of these and other questions that concern not only manufacturers, but society itself.

This letter gives the association some pertinent facts to consider. Will it consider them, or will it, like many other upholders of fallacies, disregard inconvenient facts and keep on repeating its original misstatement?

S. D.

Drifting from Our Moorings.

Professor Roscoe Pound of Harvard University, and director of the American Judicature Society, said in his convocation address before the University of Chicago:

Where yesterday our ideal was a government of laws, not of men, today our ideal is rather a vigorous government by strong men, with a minimum of judicial control. . . . Nothing was so characteristic in the nineteenth century as the completeness with which administrative action was tied down by legal liability and judicial review. . . . Today, on the other hand, the tendency is no less strong to take away judicial review of administrative action wherever it is constitutionally possible to do so and, where it is not possible, to cut down such review to the unavoidable minimum.

This summing up of national tendencies is fully warranted by the facts, and the reason, if one really wishes to find it, is not far to seek. Government by law is breaking down politically for the same reason that it is breaking down economically: because the laws of man are not in harmony with the laws of nature. Too many men have been elected as legislators who were absolutely unqualified for their duties. And having begun their work with a fundamental error—that is, of making the common inheritance of mankind, the land, the property of a few—they have added law to law in endless succession, in a vain effort to correct the evils flowing from the original mistake.

The early builders of American institutions, having experienced the evils of an autocracy, thought to correct them by setting up a government of law. The executive was hedged about by laws, and was still further restricted by judicial interpretation. But the desired results were not forthcoming. Liberty still tarried, prosperity was ever beyond reach, and justice slipped the bandage from her eyes. Then public opinion swung to the opposite side. The Legislature hav-

ing failed, recourse was had to a strong executive. This movement reached its maximum under President Roosevelt, who naively essayed to right the wrongs of the world by his own individual fiat. But in spite of his setting aside of laws, his grants of immunity to legal offenders, and his summary breaking of treaties, the people still look to the future for the establishment of Liberty, Prosperity, and Justice.

Many are looking to the Administration of President Wilson for the desired relief. He has shown a scrupulous regard for law. Yet, until Congress grasps the problem understandingly, and gets down to fundamentals, the President can do nothing permanent to relieve the situation. So long as Congress legislates against trusts—while leaving special privilege in private hands—and so long as legislatures and city councils persist in wasting their time with minimum wage laws and maximum price laws—while allowing the natural resources of the earth to be controlled by the few—we shall see our people turning from a government of law to a government of men, and from a government of men to a government of law in a vain attempt to secure the benefits of progress and civilization, which up to the present time have come to only the few. This uncertainty and confusion will continue until man learns to make his laws conform to nature's laws. When natural law finds expression in the statutes, and the courts confine their activities to applying the law, the vacillation noted by Professor Pound will cease; and social, economic and political development will proceed indefinitely.

S. C.

An Ohio Court on Trial.

Now comes word about a court that holds activity in labor difficulties to be treason. A miner named Joe Kobylak has been held under $10,000 bond at Bradley, Ohio, on that charge. The specific act of treason of which this man is alleged to be guilty is inciting a mob of strikers to violence against privately owned mining property. Assuming that he is guilty of the act charged, it requires a very difficult stretch of imagination to see wherein it constitutes treason. It is much more easy to realize that the judge who held him on that charge is not fit for his place. It remains to be seen whether in the final disposition of this case further dangerous judicial outrages of this kind are to be encouraged. Every case like this puts a court on trial and some courts have failed to stand the test.

S. D.

A Tricksters' Conspiracy Against Popular Government.

That the pending so-called anti-singletax amendment in Missouri is in fact an underhanded attempt to make the Initiative and Referendum useless for any purpose, has been ably shown by Senator Owen of Oklahoma in a speech in the Senate. Senator Owen first shows what has been made plain before, that the proposed amendment forbids not only initiation of Singletax amendments but of any measure providing a change of any kind in the tax system. He then makes clear, what had not been so well known, and what was clearly the principal object of those back of the measure—it practically abolishes the Initiative and Referendum. The proposition provides that all petitions must be filed with the county clerks four months before election, that within thirty days thereafter these clerks must lay the petitions before the county courts and if the signatures are found to be genuine the petitions shall, at least three months before election at which they are to be voted on, be certified to the Secretary of the State. Commenting on this impossible provision, Senator Owen said:

> **Now, watch carefully! All petitions must be in the hands of county clerks four months before the election. That means in 1914, say, on July 3, with the election on November 3. But the clerk may hold these petitions for 30 days before turning them over to the county court. He can hold them till August 1 to 3, all petitions filed from July 1 to 3. Now, August 3 is the date on which all petitions must be in the hands of the secretary of state at Jefferson City—that is, "three months before the election"—after being examined and certified by the county courts. It would be a physical impossibility for the county court to do all this for all petitions filed late in June or early in July, and the history of similar petitions filed in States all over the Union shows that a goodly portion of such petitions are filed shortly before or on the final date set. And even if the people should file their petitions earlier, the power of the county clerk to hold them 30 days would still be a menace and could cause thousands of names to fail to reach the secretary of state in time.**
>
> **The county court could easily refuse to certify a petition to the secretary of state on the grounds that it had not had time to examine the genuineness of the signatures.**
>
> **It is perfectly clear then, that any petition opposed by a smaller number only of county clerks or county courts would have no possible chance to get through, and these officials would all act within their constitutional rights and could not be touched.**
>
> **But more dangerous still is the unprecedented power given the courts to reject at will not only Singletax petitions but all other petitions of the people. The text says petitions shall be certified by the county courts "if the signatures thereto shall be found to be genuine signatures of voters of such**

counties." This is the first instance where it has been provided not only that genuine signatures must first actually be obtained, but that they are then of no avail until proved genuine signatures of voters before a judicial officer—the first time signatures authorized to be procured by law are presumed to be false until found genuine by the courts.

That this provision would absolutely kill every petition passed upon by an unfriendly court can not be denied. The language is plain; the effect is clear. The examination by the court and the passing upon the signatures by the court, and its finding them to be genuine, is one of the prerequisite steps of a valid petition. Further, the amendment could not be aided by judicial construction because it is a fundamental condition on which a law can be initiated or referred.

It is clear that the interests which secured the submission of this provision meant to secure by indirection what they did not dare to ask openly. Their aim is to abolish the Initiative and Referendum entirely. Having deceived Missouri farmers into a spirit of bitter opposition to the Singletax, these interests hope to make use of this opposition to fool the farmers once more into voting away all popular control over legislation of any kind. S. D.

Another Demagogic Design Defeated.

In spite of the demagogic opposition of State Treasurer Ed. Deal of Missouri, the Democratic voters of his home county have renominated State Representative A. R. Boone. Mr. Boone was a good enough democrat to oppose the pending so-called anti-singletax amendment though he does not favor adoption of Singletax. For that reason Mr. Deal denounced him as a "Singletaxer," and called on the voters of Mississippi county to defeat him. But though these voters are overwhelmingly opposed to the Singletax, they evidently have no objection to fair play and dislike demagogy. So Mr. Boone was renominated by a majority of 268. Missouri's demagogic politicians who imagine that their disgraceful methods of 1912 can be successfully used for an indefinite period would do well to consider this case. S. D.

The United Societies and Tax Reform.

Commendable is the action of the Executive Committee of the United Societies of Chicago in taking a stand for real tax reform. These societies, representing all organizations of Chicago's citizens of foreign extraction, demand home rule in taxation and insist on assessment at full value of all lands withheld from use by speculators. They are bringing these matters to the attention of candidates for the Legislature and for positions on assessment boards. This is good civic work, which will, if energetically prosecuted, put the societies in the front rank of the city's useful organizations.

S. D.

The Illinois Primary.

Contests in the Illinois primary elections to be held on September 9 are mainly confined to the Democratic and Republican parties. The Progressive party is fortunate in that Raymond Robins is the only candidate for its senatorial nomination, thus assuring it a head for its ticket of whose democracy there is no question. For a number of important places on the Democratic ticket there are democratic candidates to be found. For Trustee of Illinois University no better selection could be made than Mrs. Estella Burley Griffin. For State Superintendent of Public Instruction two of the six candidates deserve consideration on the part of Democratic voters, and since there is but one to be selected, there is no danger of both being lost in the division. Caroline Grote of the Western Illinois State Normal School is well fitted for the position. She has had many years' experience as a teacher. From the standpoint of political expediency the fact will have weight that as the nominee for the same position in 1906 she received 27,507 more votes than the head of the ticket. Robert C. Moore of Carlinville is the other candidate whose democracy and teaching experience entitle him to consideration. For Congressman-at-large Henry Hogan deserves support. In the Seventh Congressional District, Frank Buchanan should, as a matter of course, be renominated and re-elected; in the Second District the candidacy of Leon Hornstein deserves consideration. For State Representative it is very desirable that Harold V. Amberg be nominated in the Thirty-first District and Michael L. Igoe in the Fifth. In Chicago Daniel L. Cruice, candidate for County Judge, needs no guarantee of his sound democracy and fitness for the position, and the same is true of Thomas G. McElligott, Clerk of the Appellate Court and candidate for re-nomination, and of Nellie Carlin and Michael E. Maher, candidates for judgeships of the Municipal Court. On the Republican ticket Harold C. Kessinger is a candidate in the Fourteenth District for State Representative and his presence in the legislature would be desirable. S. D.

Wallace Burch.

Ohio's fundamental democrats have lost a splendid co-worker, and genuine democracy an energetic

advocate in the death at Cincinnati on August 30 of Wallace Burch. For many years he performed valuable service in the long struggle which finally ended the control exercised by John R. McLean over the Democratic party of the State. In the work of Herbert S. Bigelow he was an active assistant, doing much to spread the influence of his institution. S. D.

FREE TRADE WITH MEXICO.

To argue with a man who has renounced his reason is as useless as giving medicine to the dead.

This was a very wise observation made by a very wise man, one Thomas Paine, more than a hundred years ago, and it applies with peculiar force to that quality of mind that is absolutely impervious to the advancing scientific knowledge of the age.

The man who today thinks that the present business depression is due to the recent reduction of some of the extravagantly vicious features of the "Payne-Aldrich" tariff and who talks about the "Free Trade Wilson Bill," lacks information.

This is not a "free trade" country in our foreign relations, and it never has been; because we have not a public opinion sufficiently schooled in the viril art of free-thinking.

Freedom, real freedom, has tremendous reach, its boundaries are much wider than the confines of our own country. Its objects, its effects and its benefits are co-ordinate with the widest economic interests of the human race. It is not provincial.

It is not little. It has none of the characteristics of the Lilliputian. It is as wide reaching as the economic needs of man.

To that vast aggregation of men who think that the depression of 93 was due to the "first free trade Wilson bill" of Cleveland's day, I would gently suggest that it was only one and one-quarter per cent lower in its horizontal schedules than the McKinley bill which it supplanted. Just fancy, what a narrow margin between national prosperity and adversity!

It was such a high tariff that Cleveland refused to sign it, and he charged the Congress that passed it with "perfidy and dishonor," and Wilson, who fathered the original measure, repudiated it.

The facts are that the "original" Wilson bill *did not pass.*

The measure that did pass was the "Gorman, Brice, Hill substitute," and those men were all plutocrats and protectionists, masquerading as Democrats, as many do today.

The greatest and grandest demonstration of the essential soundness of the doctrine of free trade is the magnificent sweep of its practical application to the economic affairs of this country. Think of it!

A hundred millions of people trading freely without let or hindrance.

What a magnificent vindication of its soundness, virtues and benefits.

History holds no parallel that can compare with it. England and her colonies are the "next of kin" in this splendid demonstration of its external excellence. Even the colonies have preferential tariffs.

Trade is the real cement that holds in unbreakable affiliation this splendid and inspiring galaxy of States.

Trade is the virile thing that gives real vitality to the union of States. It is the great discoverer and conservator of mutual interests.

Free trade with Mexico will give us everything we need in that country, everything we can use to advantage, everything we have any right to. It will give us "everything but monopoly."

Free trade will do more to break down the barriers of distrust and suspicion that today pervade the whole of Mexico than all other agencies combined.

Tariffs are the great incubators of international hostility.

Reprisal, ill feeling, misunderstanding, war and waste are just a few of the precious brood of economic vampires that are hatched from the egg "protection."

Of all the gaudy liveries of heaven, purloined to serve the Mephistophelian purposes of craft, greed and selfishness, that word "protection" is one of the most scintillating examples.

What short shrift would be made of it if the people once glimpsed its true character?

This whole rotten system has woven into its texture paternalism, avarice, scarce opportunity, the sweat shop, low wages, child labor in highly protected industries, and the ten million unchronicled meannesses that are inseparably connected with this unprincipled national policy, which is now, thank a beneficent heaven, tending to rapid disintegration through the operation of more powerful economic laws, which "protectionist statesmen" seem unable to grasp, but are compelled to obey.

The "logic of events" has very striking illustration in the affairs of both the U. S. and Mexico.

Just as our agricultural exports dwindle, and our manufactural exports expand, so will our tariffs diminish to the point of ultimate disappearance.

The "needs of commerce" are as implacable and insistent as the needs of the human body, and the latter is the impelling force behind the former. They are related as are cause and effect. Commerce is irresistibly expansive.

How can tariffs permanently obstruct the effects of such splendid economic adventures as the Panama Canal and our unified railroads, which will, in a very few years, be owned and operated as a great public function, because public utilities and functions are synonymous.

Any man who is in touch with the great social and economic currents of the world can come to but one conclusion as to the ultimate destiny of public utilities, or, better yet, public functions. There is but one prophecy that will hold that is consistent with the great onward sweep of triumphant Democracy, of which Andrew Carnegie writes so volubly and has such a feeble grasp. Trade is going to be free everywhere. Mexico's territorial integrity need not be disturbed; nor is it to the interest of any honest, self-respecting American to disturb it.

Mexican politics will never have a stable foundation until it is underpinned, as is our own political structure, by a flock of "little" red schoolhouses at the base and pyramiding to a splendid apex of industrial universities at the very top.

On no other foundation can you rear a political structure that will endure, because we carry all of our institutions around in our heads. The human head is the real temple of liberty.

The educated brains of the multitude is the real citadel of true republican government.

The monopolist is the historic enemy of democratic government everywhere.

Mexico will never achieve a real republic until we get one. We must "arrive" together, for it is clear that if we, after more than a hundred years of alleged republican government are still lame, halt, and in many ways blind, as to the real genius of republican institutions, their tremendous reach, and vast beneficence, what can we expect of Mexico?

We, with our splendid educational facilities, have not yet outgrown a system which has millionaires and tramps as its two most striking and sinister social products. Economically we are still in a raw state; we are in no position to set an example to the rest of the nations as to the finished product of democracy.

Is it reasonable to suppose that Mexico, with the collossal handicap of an untrained public opinion, will, without outside aid, counsel and example, establish a condition which can endure?

It is simply unthinkable.

We are only in the beginning of our own political solvency. We cannot teach Mexico more than we know ourselves, and we have yet to learn the crowning glories of the science of civil government.

We have yet to learn the latitude and longitude of liberty and its countless connotations. We can only show Mexico how to start, just as we have started ourselves, and then we must travel together.

We have yet to learn that no nation can be free whose external commerce is shackled as is ours today.

Free trade with Mexico and Canada will do for us and for them what nothing else can do. It will give us every advantage which political annexation will give without any of its manifest disadvantages.

Political fusion at this time with either of these countries is neither wise, necessary, practicable or useful; we do not need it, nor do they.

Commercial fusion is entirely practicable.

In political annexation are involved racial, religious, political and provincial prejudices of an insurmountable character.

Commerce has but one characteristic and one quality: its infinite usefulness.

Commerce has neither race, creed, color, age nor sex to complicate its ministrations. It his just one great outstanding virtue: next to sunlight it is the most beautiful, useful and indispensable thing in the world. We need more economic sunlight.

When the people of these three countries once see the incomparable utility of free trade, free production, free raw materials and free industry, they will glimpse the unalterable fact that these things are inseparably connected with *free human beings* and that men *can never be free* in any large and wholesale way until this concise, logical and wholesome interpretation is taught in our public schools.

Liberty is not only a term to conjure with: it is the most wide-reaching and ultimately influential word in human language. Its rippling undulations will yet reach into the deepest recesses in the far-off corners of the world, and its count-

less civilizing benefactions will color the life of the last man in the line.

"Freedom to trade" is the most promising legend than can be written upon the flaming, waving banners of the progressive hosts of democracy in all parts of this big round world, which are now gathering for a final onslaught upon the breastworks of institutionalized privilege.

All over the earth are its evidences, and nowhere is the preparation for the "final assault" more plainly seen than right here in our own beloved country.

HENRY H. HARDINGE.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

EVILS OF MEXICO'S OLD REGIME.

Los Angeles, Aug. 7.

Diaz became President at a time when Mexico was so tired of revolutions that any peace was welcome. His rule was so good that by degrees, as the country revived, a genuine "Era of Good Feeling" set in, which reached its zenith about 1900. That is the secret of Diaz's long reign. The roads became so safe that an unarmed man could travel about with a mule load of bullion through towns and wilderness alike. In the large towns, law and order prevailed. In the smallest villages the Indians were let alone. It was only in the small towns above the order of villages—that is, in places just large enough to have a single appointee to govern them—that dreadful injustices were done, and the rest of the country never heard of them, for a Mexican lives and dies near his birthplace, and sees little of the rest of the country. In some of the little towns the Jefe Politicos were very good men, and ruled as justly as possible. President Diaz aimed to have them all good, but was sometimes deceived; that is the weakness of benevolent despotism.

We had therefore, in 1900, a condition of profound peace, with all rancor forgotten, and President Diaz generally beloved. On the haciendas, some owners were good, some mistreated their peons; in the Communities, the Indians lived peacefully in their primitive way; in the Pueblos (towns) the Jefes Politicos ruled, ill or well, as they chose, but mostly pretty well; and in the big cities were at least order and written law—very good order and very good law. Europeanism throve in the cities; Orientalism in the Pueblos; Feudalism on the Haciendas; and communistic barbarism in the Communities. And on these last, the ruins of an ancient civilization, as a foundation, all the other forms were reared in order, the cities being the only modern thing.

In Sinaloa and Durango, we always called the Jefes Politicos "Judges" for short. Officially they were Jefes Politicos in Durango, and Directores Politicos in Sinaloa; but in smaller towns they were called Sindicos or Celadores. All kinds of them were called "Judges," for they were judges as much as anything else. It was a legal evil that these men were appointed by the State Governors. Peonage was an illegal evil, expressly forbidden by the Federal and State Constitutions, and the Civil Code.

After 1900 new frictions arose. The old Generals of 1867, who hungered to be President, were all dead except a few thoroughly attached to Diaz. No one doubts that Diaz had procured the assassination of many of them. People condoned it as being for the good of the country. But in 1900 there was the beginning of a very important change, namely: President Diaz began to get old and deaf and to lose his faculties. By degrees, he became a mere figurehead or cat's-paw for his "friends," the Cientificos. The Cientificos governed, and he was merely their tool.

The Cientificos governed with a terrible despotism, and seemed to have a frenzied idea that nothing could shake their absolutism. They ceased to make the old pretense of democracy. They sent soldiers to harry parts of the country so loyal that no soldiers were needed—places which had until then been well treated and never believed the stories of outrage from other parts, because in their own territory they saw only law and order.

Formerly anyone who could reach Diaz's personal attention was sure of justice; latterly, he was only sure of injustice.

But chiefly, of course, the Cientificos exploited the country where Diaz had not. Diaz has been a soldier and office holder all his life, was born poor, and is now quite rich, although he probably spent his presidential salary as fast as he made it. But no one accuses him of any graft. His wealth came from speculation in stocks and bonds, with an advance knowledge of legislation to be enacted; and from speculation in lands where he, as President, knew a railroad would soon be built. In either case, the money came from the general loot of capitalism, not from the public treasury, and not by confiscation or attainder of oppressed persons' property.

But the Cientificos, while they did not create a raw shortage in the treasury, gave themselves subsidies out of it for railroads they never built, and practiced other grafts. But also they gave away the most unheard of concessions. One company was empowered to import dynamite at a low rate of duty, but to all other importers the tariff was raised, so as to give the favorites a monopoly. They agreed to build a dynamite factory in the country, but only made a threadbare pretense.

The sole right to take gravel from the Culiacan river bed was given to two Cientificos; but Governor Canedo telegraphed President Diaz that if that public property had to be deeded to individuals, he would outbid any other bidders, and buy it himself, in trust for the people. As the Cientificos did not dare stir up any trouble, they let the matter go. But the worst concession I ever heard of was that giving away the sole right to fish on the Pacific Coast—a coast six thousand miles long. (There shall not be any monopolies, says the Constitution of 1857.) Thousands of poor fishermen found the very ocean given away, and their boats condemned to rot, themselves to starve—unless they paid the company a royalty, or took wages from it, or made such other terms as the company chose to give.

While Diaz's private life was as pure as Madero's (that is to say, irreproachable), the Cientificos were

some of them monsters of profligacy. It took years for people to realize that Diaz was no longer at the helm; and even then they said "Let the General die in peace." But when the Cientificos foisted Corral as vice president, it became plain that if Mexico was to be saved in time, it was idle to wait for Diaz to die.

About 1900 the Cientificos gave away the lands of the Yaqui Indians, and then began deporting the Indians to serve as slaves in Yucatan, on the haciendas of the Cientificos. For years the servile press justified the Yaqui war. They deceived me, a single-taxer, as they deceived others. They kidnaped men all over Mexico to serve as forced soldiers against the Yaquis. I remember in 1905, my first eye-opener was the sight of an aged woman going down the middle of the street, scorning the sidewalks, escorted by two compassionate-looking soldiers (militia men) and hysterically shrieking at every step, "Oh, Jesus! Oh, Jesus!" I found her son had been arrested, and when she went to the jail to see him and discover what trivial charge might be against him, and taking with her some dainties she had cooked so that he might not have to eat the jail fare, she found he was already gone on his way to the Yaqui country. She was a widow, and had no one but him.

When Yaquis could get away from Yucatan they returned 2,000 miles to Sonora, begging their way through the entire country, and always got assisted home. I have many times fed them and given them money to get to the next place. They went openly, for the various State governments made no effort to arrest them—or possibly it was only in states like Sinaloa, where Canedo was Governor, that they could go openly. The Southern Pacific Railroad also assisted them, and in general the whole northern capitalist class, for in the north wage-workers were wanted, not slaves; and the southern capitalists were depleting the labor market of those of the north.

In 1907 I got my second eye-opener. I passed through Sonora, and at every station saw soldiers and guards. As there were no Federals in northern Sinaola, only militiamen, I had never before seen Federals in all their war equipment, with trains of wagons, field guns, caissons, knapsacks, tents, and everything. At one station they brought up about 40 Yaquis (about half a dozen families) and sent the men away on one train, the women in another direction on another train, and the children scattered around so as to break up every family. The women got down off the army wagons, the men ceased their dusty tramp, and they parted without complaint. Not even the children cried. I was told that these unfortunates would be run into Guaymas at dead of night, and the train stopped on the end of a long wharf, whence the prisoners would be transferred to a steamer, without the people of Guaymas knowing anything about it. The Yaqui slave trade was undoubtedly the most atrocious thing anywhere in Mexico; it could not be forever concealed from the enlightened northern Mexicans; and being known was more than any people could stomach. Thousands of well-to-do professional and educated people, whose chance of personally suffering outrages at the hands of the Cientificos was very remote, became disaffected because of this Yaqui question, and eventually threw themselves into the revolution.

To refer again to the land question on the haciendas: the great estates are handed down from father to son. It takes an exceedingly large body of land to support the owners in moderate luxury. Even where willing to sell, the hacendadoes want to sell the whole tract, and will not cut it up or sell part. The price, when a sale does take place, is from 25 cents to $5 per acre. It is more folly than greed that makes the hacendadoes try to perpetuate conditions. There could be no better fortune for them than a good, constitutional government, under which they could subidivide and sell their lands at prices such as prevail in other countries. The secret of the low value is not far to seek: there is no market for anything except by shipping to foreign countries. The great mass of the people can buy only a few cotton rags and a bushel or so of raw corn per month per family. The wages they get are from 12 to 50 cents per day in our money, the higher price being right along the border, where a short journey would take the workmen into the United States.

Everyone has read, times without number, about the "marvelous resources" and untold natural wealth of Mexico. It is so much the fashion to say that, that it is almost a heresy to come right out and say the plain truth: It is a poor country, not a rich one.

First, about the mines. Gold and silver are the principal products, chiefly silver. The country has a fatal lack of iron in proximity to coal. Coal is almost absent, and iron never near the coal. Mexico is one of many countries that illustrate the servitude of nations whose mines produce silver and gold to those whose mines bring forth iron and coal. All the gold and silver countries are in bondage to the coal and iron countries.

Oil is one of the newer resources, and is not to be despised.

As to agriculture: It seems to me that the greatest legacy the human race enjoys, next to the planet itself, is the work of the Great Glacier, which once covered northern Europe and America. It smoothed the plains for the plow, broke up the rocks, powdered the soil, and left navigable rivers and useful lakes—which latter help to increase the rainfall and equalize it.

Mexico lies south of the glaciated region, and did not share in the great benefit. The whole northern interior is a trade-wind desert, where the planted quarter-section will never displace the cattle range. The coasts are wetter, especially the east coast; and everywhere the rainfall increases toward the south. But the topography is rugged. The shaping of the land has been left to the work of erosion, and the result is networks of great mountains, such as are not known in our country. Even the valleys are not flat—they have never been planed, but carved by erosion.

The material of the land itself in its origin is eruptive. Almost all the rock at some time burst forth in a molten condition. The rocks that are rich in plant food are sedimentary; and they are rare in Mexico. The two coastal plains are pretty good, and the south may have a good deal of good land;

but there is no navigable river in the country (there is a little one in the far south) and few lakes.

B. F. BUTTERFIELD.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

NOT A "RADICAL COLONY."

New York, August 24.

The continual reference by newspapers to "Free Acres" as a "radical colony" necessitates this explanation: "Free Acres," as expressed in its Constitution and provided in the Deed of Gift, is intended as a working model of the Singletax. Like our other Singletax Settlements, it is not a "radical colony" in the generally accepted sense; nor is it composed of radicals any more than of republicans or church workers. We have some of all. No one's opinions are asked as a condition of taking a perpetual lease; all he has to do is to pay his rent and to mind his own business. Our people are lawyers, secretaries, merchants, doctors, salesmen and literary people, and so on, whose opinions are mostly the current opinions. We do not necessarily share our opinions; the only thing all have in common is the rental value of the land. This seems to me the most hopeful basis on which to establish any colony. The colony has had its most successful summer in all respects.

BOLTON HALL.

A DISFRANCHISING SCHEME.

Los Angeles, Calif., August 22.

The California State Realty Federation stands sponsor for asking the voters of California to vote Yes on having their voting rights abolished.

Their bill proposes to prevent every person from voting at bond elections in this State who does not own property. Apparently an advertising scheme to sell some of "their" big land holdings to the propertyless, so that they may vote with dignity or have a home to fight for in case of a war.

About 35 per cent of the people of California own their homes free today out of an approximate present population of 3,000,000. A mathematical calculation applied to this scheme will evidence the fact that about 1,950,000 persons will be denied the privileges of their fellow kind in the future. This certainly "looks good"—to the 35 persons who are said to own one-seventh of this State. Francis B. Cutting, who used his ingenuity in drawing up this dangerous bill for the State Realty Interests, says, in support of it, that it will allow only "the interested, intelligent and affected classes" to express themselves where bonds are voted.

This Initiated measure was not much seen on the streets of California cities during the work of soliciting of signatures. I understand it was chiefly circulated among the employes of real estate, title and railroad companies and banks. What the proponents of this bill overlooked was the common sense of the "other classes." These "other classes" do pay their share of bonded indebtedness and interest besides, when they pay their rent on the "interested, intelligent and affected classes'" property. Prof. Carl C. Plehn of the Department of Economics of University of California, says that questions of taxation are too complicated and technical for the average person to understand and vote upon. The Professor usually spends his vacation telling the people that.

President Joseph F. Sartori of the Security Savings and Trust Bank, who was so successful in preventing the United States Government from establishing a regional reserve bank in this city, and also in preventing the people from adopting the Home Rule in Taxation Amendment two years ago, is another friend of the Realty Board's measure. He favors particularly the retaining of the poll tax, an automobile tax to maintain good roads, and the abolition of the State tax on real estate. The State Realty Federation is going the limit to beat the Home Rule in Taxation Amendment, which is on the ballot as Local Taxation Amendment No. 7.

WALDO J. WERNICKE.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, September 1, 1914.

The European War.

The general features of the war are the advance of the Germans in France, the advance of Russia in Prussia and Galacia and the successes of England on the sea. [See current volume, page 826.]

On the Franco-German Frontier.

The decisive events of the war have been confined to the Franco-German frontier. The steady pounding of the German forces has compelled the allies to fall back from their advanced position in Belgium, Lorraine and Alsace, and reform in France on the strategic first line of defence. The four days' battle which ended in this change of front was accompanied by enormous casualties, but no official detailed reports have been received.

While the German army has advanced along its whole front, the extreme right, essaying to turn the Allies' left, has pushed its way toward Paris as far as La Fere, or within 60 miles of the French capital. The English troops are co-operating with the French at this point, and although both fought valiantly they were compelled to retire before the overwhelming number of the German troops. The retreat of the Allies has been made in good order, and the men have not lost their spirit. An attempt was made by the French to draw off some of the Germans who are overwhelming their extreme left by a vigorous attack on the Lorraine border in the entire Vosges region, but even this did not stop the steady advance of the Kaiser's troops toward Paris.

France has called out the class of 1914, which will give its army 200,000 more men. The active reserve and the oldest classes of the territorial reserve have also been called out, making an additional 400,000 re-inforcements; but they will not be immediately available. Meantime, preparations are going forward at Paris to withstand a seige. Houses in the suburbs that might offer shelter to the Germans, or interfere with the fire from the forts, are being demolished, and non combatants are advised to leave the city. The seat of government will be moved in the event that seige becomes a certainty.

Belgium has ceased to offer effective opposition to Germany except in the immediate vicinity of Antwerp. This not only opened the way into France, but it enables the Germans to withdraw a part of their troops, and send them against the invading Russians. The results of the campaign on the Franco-German border to date favor the German troops.

Russia.

Russia has been advancing into Germany and Austria at the same time the German troops entered France. The same censorship and the same conflict of reports follow the movements of Russia as accompany the activities along the Franco-German border. At the same time the Russians entered Galacia, the Austrians invaded Russian Poland. Unofficial dispatches announce the defeat of the Austrians at Zamose, a city of 12,000 inhabitants in the Province of Lubin on the Wieprz. The same confusion attends the account of the Russian invasion of Germany. On the one hand the Russians have been reported in the outskirts of Konigsberg; on the other hand 30,000 Russians have been reported captured by the Germans. Much alarm is reported in Berlin at the Russian invasion; and it is announced that the Kaiser has left his army in France to meet the Russians in Eastern Prussia.

Southeastern Europe.

Austria severed diplomatic relations with Japan on the 25th. She declared war on Belgium on the 28th. To meet the Russian attack Austria weakened her army invading Servia to such an extent that the Servian forces have driven them entirely from their territory, and have made a counter move by invading Bosnia with 150,000 men. Prince William of Wied, who was nominated by the Powers to govern Albania, is reported to have fled his country. Neither Turkey nor Greece has yet declared war, though such declaration is hourly expected.

On the Sea.

No sea battles of moment have yet taken place. The German and Austrian fleets stick close to well mined harbors, and their cruisers have for the most part been driven from the sea. Announcement was made by the British admiralty on the 27th that the German armed merchant cruiser, Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse of 14,000 tons and armed with ten 4-inch guns, had been sunk off the west coast of Africa by the British cruiser High Flier. Announcement came at the same time of the destruction by the Russian fleet of the German cruiser Magdeburg, which had run ashore on the Isle of Odensburg in the Gulf of Finland. Several ships have been blown up by floating mines in the North Sea. The British steamship Holmwood, 4,238 tons, was sunk off the Brazilian coast by the German cruiser Dresden.

The most important sea fight that has taken place occurred on the 28th off the Island of Heligoland between German and English fleets of cruisers, destroyers and submarines. According to the crews of the British destroyers returning to England, eleven German ships of various sizes were sunk. The German loss in killed and wounded is given as 870, the English, at 67.

A British force from New Zealand on the 29th captured Apia, the commercial metropolis of the Samoan group of islands, and capital of the German part of the group.

Asia.

Japan's activities against Kiao-Chau have not yet led to open warfare. Japanese troops are reported to have landed at several points on the coast near the German colony. Kaio-Chau is said by military experts to be very strongly fortified, and to be provisioned for three months.

Former Chinese rebels are taking advantage of the present confusion to return to their own country. The Chinese government has asked foreign legations to prevent revolutionists from securing refuge in the foreign settlements.

England.

It is more and more apparent as the war in Europe proceeds that the outcome is dependent upon England. That she realizes this and is determined to put forth her full strength is evident from the union of all elements at home, and the enthusiasm of the colonies. Lord Kitchener, Minister of War, in a speech before the House of Lords on the 25th, after calling attention to the fact that the war would entail big sacrifices, and strain the forces of the empire, said:

The terms on which I am serving are the same as those under which some of the finest portions of our manhood, now so willingly stepping forward to join

the colors, are engaging. That is to say, my term of office is for the duration of the war, or for three years if the war should last longer than that. . . .

While other countries engaged in this war have under their systems of compulsory service brought their full resources into the field, we, under our national system, have not been so compelled. Therefore, we still have a vast reserve to draw from the resources of both the mother country and the dominions. . . .

The empire with which we are at war has called to the colors almost its entire male population. The principle we on our part shall observe is this: That while the maximum force undergoes constant diminution the re-enforcements we prepare will steadily and increasingly flow out until we have an army in the field which in numbers will not be less than in quality and not be unworthy of the power and responsibility of the British Empire.

I cannot at this stage say what will be the limits of the force required or what measures may eventually become necessary to supply and maintain it.

The scale of the field army which we are now calling into being is large and may rise in the course of the next six or seven months to a total of thirty divisions to be maintained continually in the field.

But if the war should be protracted and if its fortunes should be varied or adverse, exertions and sacrifices beyond any which have been demanded will be required from the whole nation and empire. And where they are required we are sure they will not be denied to the extreme needs of the state by parliament of the people.

Premier Asquith announced in the House of Commons on the 31st that when Parliament reassembled September 9th, the government would proceed with the Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment bills.

Election of a New Pope.

The Conclave of Cardinals to elect a new Pope met in the Vatican on August 31. In accordance with custom the door of the conclave hall has been locked, not to be reopened until an election has taken place. All means of communication with the outside world will. until that event, be shut off. [See current volume, page 828.]

Mexico and the United States.

A report was published August 30 that General Frederick Funston, in command of the American forces at Vera Cruz, had made a request three days previously for reinforcements. The cause was attributed to friction between Generals Funston and Carranza. The friction was said to have been the result of an order issued by Carranza closing the port of Vera Cruz and suspending train service to the city from interior places. Acting Secretary of War Wotherspoon made a statement on August 31 denying that General Funston had asked for additional troops. The suspension of train service, Carranza had explained, was due to transportation of troops south of Mexico city, and had already been re-established. [See current volume, page 829.]

General Obregon was reported on August 25 to have been sent to Sonora by General Carranza, ostensibly to smooth out local troubles, but in fact to confer with General Villa and bring about harmony. General Villa has outlined to the United States Government the following two proposals, either of which he is willing to accept: First, a conference of military chiefs to be called as agreed to at the meeting at Torreon when the first Villa-Carranza break was adjusted, one delegate representing every one thousand men in the army; this convention would designate a man to be provisional president who, under the constitution, could not succeed himself, but would call a general election. Second, Carranza can be designated as provisional president by the proposed convention, but he must agree to abide by the constitution and not succeed himself.

Washington News.

The Senate on August 29 confirmed the appointment of Attorney General McReynolds to the Supreme Bench by a vote of 44 to 6. By the same vote Thomas Watt Gregory was confirmed as Attorney General. The appointment of Charles F. Clyne as District Attorney of Chicago to succeed James F. Wilkerson was held up pending investigation of a charge that Wilkerson's action in pressing certain cases was the cause of his removal. Wilkerson has been summoned to testify before the Senate committee. The six Senators who voted against confirmation of McReynolds were Clapp of Minnesota, Cummins of Iowa, Norris of Nebraska, Jones of Washington, Poindexter of Washington and Vardaman of Mississippi. [See current volume, page 830].

The bill to create a federal bureau of marine insurance with a $5,000,000 fund to meet possible losses, passed the House on August 29 by a vote of 230 to 58. The bill had already passed the Senate, but the House amended it before adoption, thus necessitating its return to the Senate. [See current volume, page 830.]

Protest Literature to Be Published.

Upton Sinclair, whose address is now Croton-on-Hudson, New York, has issued the following appeal:

I am making a collection of the literature of protest against social injustice, both prose and poetry, from all languages and times. I am looking not merely for socialist material but for anything which voices

the cry for justice and which is worthy to rank as literature. The book is to be given a large circulation and I want to make it as inclusive as possible. I will be grateful to any comrades who may see this notice, and who will lend me scrap-books or collections containing such material. The same will be carefully preserved and promptly returned.

Tax Reform News.

The Executive Committee of the United Societies of Chicago accepted on August 26 the report of its Committee on Taxation. The report quotes at length reports of city officials showing unfair working of the present tax laws. In addition the committee presented examples of its own such as the following:

The valuation of State street property in the loop, which is valued on the assessors' books at $13,000 per front 100 foot deep, whereas the only piece of land on State street in the market at present is held at $35,000 per front foot, shows the inequality in tax valuation as to real value. Valuations of land in the loop district, as compared with valuations of improvements bear the ratio of 5 to 1, taken from Board of Review records.

The recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

Home Rule in Taxation, enabling local taxing districts to raise their local revenue from such sources and in such manner as they deem best.

The abolition of the State Board of Equalization and the organization in lieu thereof of a State Supervisory Board of Taxation.

The separation of the sources of State revenues from local revenues by securing all State revenues from statewide public utilities as far as possible.

Having the Board of Assessors and Board of Review value according to actual sales and leases, 100 per cent of actual value as thereby determined.

Placing of full market value on all vacant properties held out of use by speculators, in order to bring them into use.

Sending to all property owners in advance of assessment tentative valuations giving said property owners opportunity to make protest at a public hearing, if objection is made thereto.

Dividing the work of assessment among the assessors upon property lines instead of district lines, with a view to each assessor specializing in one field of work.

The report was signed by C. R. Jandus, Chairman, and William C. Wulff, Secretary. On acceptance it was referred to the Political Action Committee which has questioned legislation candidates concerning their position on home rule in taxation, on separation of sources of state and local revenue, and on substitution of a State Supervisory Board of Taxation for the Board of Equalization. Candidates for the Board of Assessors and Board of Review have been asked to state their position on valuation of loop properties according to actual sales and leases at 100 per cent of actual values, on assessing at full market value "all vacant properties held out of use by speculators," on sending tentative assessments in advance to property owners, and on dividing work among assessors on property lines instead of district lines.

The pending amendment in California for Home Rule in Taxation has been endorsed by the city councils of Stockton, Paso Robles and Watts, making a total of thirty-six municipalities which have so far taken such action. These municipalities represent eighteen counties from Siskiyou at the extreme north to Imperial at the extreme south. The amendment has also the endorsement of the League of California Municipalities, of the State Fruit Growers' Convention, and of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union. [See current volume page 807.]

The program of the National Tax Conference at Denver on September 8 to 11 includes discussion of the following subjects: Taxation of express companies, license fees on foreign corporations, uniformity in taxation of personal property, federal income tax, and singletax in Canada. F. C. Wade of Vancouver and Professor Clark of the University of Manitoba, both strong opponents of the singletax, have been assigned discussion of the latter subject. F. J. Dixon of Winnipeg is the only Canadian representative of the singletax movement assigned a position on the program.

The Ohio Progressive party state convention on August 25 at Columbus took the following stand on taxation:

We pledge our party to the support of county home rule in taxation and an equitable adjustment of taxes on mortgaged real estate to avoid double taxation, an exemption of $500 of personal property for each person.

Commission on Industrial Relations.

The Federal Commission on Industrial Relations at Portland, Oregon, on August 24 heard the testimony of Mr. C. E. S. Wood, a very prominent attorney of the city. Mr. Wood declared the chief cause of industrial unrest to be misuse of land. If conditions were made so that it would not be possible to hold land for merely speculative purposes, there would be a vast improvement. Only those who use land should own it. The withholding of land from use by speculators prevents proper care of the unemployed in Portland. No one can even begin to clear the land, which is now useless, without paying some one for this feudal title. The same conditions prevail everywhere, Mr. Wood continued. For example, all the iron ore in the United

States is controlled either by James J. Hill or the United States Steel Corporation, and they are only mining a very small part of it. Four railroads control practically all of the anthracite coal and mine only a small fraction. He favored throwing open to use whatever part of these lands the present holders are not developing. This would open opportunities for employment to all who desired it. [See current volume, page 830.]

W. C. Banfield, vice president of Portland's Realty Association, declared that there are three classes in society: "Employers, employees and barnacles." Pressed to mention an example of the latter he finally admitted that he had trade union leaders in mind. Edward Gilbert, a laborer, told of troubles in caring for the unemployed in Portland last winter. In the face of strong opposition the city leased a building known as the Tabernacle and allowed the idle men to occupy it. Then after it had been opened it was suddenly ordered closed and the idle men turned on the street with no place to go, on one of the stormiest nights of the year. A few days later, however, the order was rescinded and the men allowed to stay until spring. The men at first sought for work and were determined not to accept charity, but were compelled, through lack of opportunity, to depend on charity after all. One man had offered to give work to all who wanted it at clearing a large area of stump land. The men accepted this offer, but before they could go to work their prospective employer was warned by his neighbors that he would be run out of the country if he employed these "vagrants."

In regard to the working of the minimum wage law, Father Edwin V. O'Hara, chairman of the Industrial Welfare Commission of Oregon said that the commission had fixed $9.25 a week as the minimum wage for experienced women in mercantile lines for a fifty-hour week. The same applies to office work. The minimum for fifty-four hours work in Portland factories is $8.64 a week. The reason a lower rate was fixed for factories was because a girl in a store or office needs more money for clothes. The law has been upheld by the State Supreme Court and is now pending before the Supreme Court of the United States. Miss Caroline Gleason, secretary of the commission, testified that the law had improved conditions and that the number of girls discharged for inability to earn the minimum wage was very small.

In Stockton, California, on August 26, Irving Martin, owner of the Stockton Record, told the commission of efforts to control his editorial and news policy. During a labor difficulty he had endeavored to publish both sides of the controversy. Union leaders, he found, would bring their news to the office while reporters found it difficult to obtain statements from the employers' headquarters. Eventually he published an editorial advising arbitration, and for this some employers termed him obnoxious. Advertising fell off to some extent, but not, he believed, as the result of any concerted action.

NEWS NOTES

—The twenty-first case of bubonic plague was reported at New Orleans on August 28.

—At the South Carolina Democratic primaries on August 25 Senator Ellison D. Smith was renominated, defeating Governor Cole L. Blease.

—A conference of New York Progressives at Utica on August 27 endorsed Frederick M. Davenport of Clinton for Governor and Bainbridge Colby of New York City for Senator.

—In a statement issued on August 25 William Randolph Hearst announced his decision to make no further effort to secure the New York Democratic senatorial nomination. [See current volume, page 831.]

—Michigan State wide primaries on August 25 resulted in renomination of Governor Woodbridge N. Ferris by the Democrats, of ex-Governor Chase S. Osborn by the Republicans for his former position, and of Henry Pattengill for Governor by the Progressives.

—Statewide primaries in California on August 25 resulted in nomination by the Republicans of Congressman Knowland for Senator and John D. Fredericks for Governor; by the Progressives of Francis J. Heney for Senator and Governor Hiram Johnson for re-election; and by the Democrats of James F. Phelan for Senator.

—Republicans, Democrats and Progressives of Kansas held state conventions on August 25 to formulate state platforms. All declared for the Initiative and Referendum and also for national prohibition. Republicans and Progressives declared for national woman suffrage. Democrats declared for the Recall, and Progressives for Presidential preference primaries.

—Celebration at Washington of the seventy-fifth birthday of Henry George on September 2 has been announced by the Woman's Single Tax Club and the Tax Reform Association of the District of Columbia. The program includes speeches by Louis F. Post, Congressman David J. Lewis of Maryland, Congressman Robert J. Crosser of Ohio, and Congressman Edward Keating of Colorado.

—Former Governor Fort of New Jersey, chairman of the commission sent by President Wilson to settle the revolution in San Domingo, cabled the State Department that an agreement had been reached on the 27th by which President Bordas was to resign on the 28th, to be succeeded by Raymon Baez, head of the National University of San Domingo. President Bordas may be a candidate in the elections, which are to be conducted by the new provisional president. Baez will not be permitted to be a candidate. Lead-

ers are to disarm their forces, and release all political prisoners. [See current volume, page 831.]

—Colonel J. Lockett, commander of the federal troops in the Colorado strike district, announced on August 28th the receipt of an order from Secretary of War Garrison providing that all coal miners in that district must be residents of Colorado. On request of the operators Colonel Lockett asked the war department to clearly specify what entitled a miner to be considered a resident of Colorado. [See current volume, page 830.]

PRESS OPINIONS

The Biggest War Is in America.

Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat, August 26.—War has distorted the news perspective not only of the American editor, but of the American newspaper reader as well. The war news has swept us from our moorings. It is time to beat a retreat and dig up our old sense of values. . . . The things President Wilson is doing mean more to us than the plans the Kaiser is making. The deliberations of our own congress are of greater moment than the decisions reached by the German reichstag or the English parliament. The great battles are raging at Washington. . . . The matter over the outcome of the fight between the Wilson administration and the Sugar Trust is of greater moment to us than the outcome of the conflict at Mons, Belgium. . . . Two weeks ago the food pirates, the predatory interests, believing that the attention of the people of this nation was centered upon European affairs, swept down upon us. The Sugar Trust got clear through the lines. The enemy hit us hard. It levied tribute upon us. In general importance that assault looms high above the attack upon Liege. . . . Washington today is the real world capital. Our battles are economic battles. Our generals are cabinet members and congressmen and senators. And what they do is the big news. The war may get the scare headlines. But the big news is at Washington just the same.

An Ideal Appointment.

Christian Science Monitor, August 20.—Ignoring the contentions of partisan factions in the Empire state, President Wilson has decided to put in charge of the immigration station at Ellis Island a man of high reputation as a civic expert. His nominee, F. C. Howe, has a knowledge of methods of city government, of dealing with public utility corporations, of drafting and enacting legislation expressing progressive community and state ideals equaled perhaps by few of his countrymen. Experience with practical politics in Ohio, administrative duties in connection with the People's Institute, New York City, commissions by the federal government to study city government in Europe, and service on the teaching staffs of universities have prepared him to take charge at Ellis Island committed to a policy of enlightened common sense. There are few posts in the federal service, outside of the highest ones in Washington, which call for as much practical idealism as the wardenship of the gate through which a majority of Europeans seeking temporary or permanent citizenship enter. The necessity of combining due strictness of inspection with the amenities of courtesy, good will and hospitality is apparent; and to impress this ideal upon a staff of subordinates and hold them to it strictly is not possible save by a man of parts, serving as commissioner. Moreover, the more this man knows about the nations from which the immigrants have come and the more cosmopolitan in his sympathies he is, the better he can deal with the problems as they arise. By refusing to be party to any deal by which this post should be filled with a politician the President has met the expectations of his admirers. In enlisting Mr. Howe the President has found a subordinate who, we believe, will work loyally with him in any administrative reforms of the immigration station which may be recommended.

Senselessness of War.

Belleville (Ill.) News-Democrat, August 11.—True Christianity sanctions no war. It stands for peace at any price. It exemplifies the gospel of non-resistance. When the enemy strikes you on one cheek, you turn him the other that he may smite that, too. It refuses to raise the sword to shed human blood, even when it is forced into the hand. We do not go that far. But the only war we justify is a war of self-defense. The Belgians are engaged in just warfare in fighting to repel the invader. . . . The German citizen and the Belgian man do not hate each other that they should shoot at each other and kill each other or destroy each other's property The chances are they would become intimate friends if they would get acquainted with each other. Their boys and girls would intermarry. They would visit at each other's homes and they would enjoy social intercourse with each other. . . . They ought to let the kings and the emperors and the princes fight it out among themselves. There is nothing in war for the people. What the people of Europe need is republics instead of monarchies. They need the recall to recall their despotic and tyrannical rulers and bullies. Their governments ought to rest on the consent of the governed. . . . A titled nobility is a menace, and so is a large standing army.

Unemployment and the Land Question.

Chicago Tribune, August 28.—When a thousand men are thrown out of employment in St. Petersburg by the shutdown of a factory at least half the number will betake themselves "to the provinces." For many of the city workers have homes and families in the provinces. The allotment of land in the peasant communities is too small to hold the growing family and the younger men seek the city and the factory. In time of trouble, of industrial depression, however, they come back to the land and to the old family home. The home, even if in the possession of a brother, or a cousin, or an uncle, still gives them a roof over their heads. The land gives them, if nothing more, at least black bread. The same is true to varying degrees of conditions in many, if not most, countries of the old world. There is a connection, a bond, in some cases near, in others

remote, between the factory worker and the land. In times of prosperity this bond is of only sentimental importance. In times of distress, of worklessness, however, it becomes an economic prop of greater or lesser significance and value. In the United States the bond between the factory worker and the man on the land is negligible as far as our largest industrial cities are concerned. . . . When a factory shuts down in an American city three-fourths of the employes, or thereabouts, must find work in another factory within a certain time. When the savings of such workers are eaten up and still there is no job in sight there is nothing but despair and starvation ahead of them. They must appeal to charity, to the municipal lodging house. This detached condition of the workman in our industrial cities is a constant source of worry to him. For he has nothing to fall back on in time of economic stagnation. The individual laborer's willingness to work counts for nothing. . . . The United States commission on industrial relations has been holding hearings in various parts of the country in an effort to discover the underlying causes of dissatisfaction in the industrial world . . . The greatest cause in this country, it may be safely said, is fear—the fear caused by the uncertainty of employment, the fear which comes from the workman's realization of his own helplessness against gigantic capitalistic enterprises, of his doubtful if not dark outlook for the future.

Sailors Held as Slaves.

(Andrew Furuseth, in Coast Seamen's Journal.)

In our country seamen are the only persons who may be punished for violation of a civil contract to labor, by being arrested as deserters (except in the domestic trade), detained, and finally delivered back to the ship, or sentenced to a term in prison, for the simple act of quitting the service of an employer. Modern education and this ancient status exist together. The native American, therefore, has left the sea to such an extent that few now remain, and the white man everywhere is leaving because of the taint of slavery which extends, in its influences, even into the exempted portions of the calling. Abolish the slave laws. Let American freedom extend to the decks of the American ship. Let American soil become free for seamen as it is for all other men. Then the United States will have the pick of the world's best seamen, while it is developing a much needed native personnel, a body of native American seamen owing allegiance to our flag and to none other. In short, enact the La Follette Seamen's Bill (S. 136). The hours of labor are discretionary with the owner and master. The seamen must work until exhausted, or go to prison for "disobedience to lawful command." Twelve hours' work every day, seven days a week, at sea, is the minimum often exceeded. In port fifteen to eighteen hours a day, sometimes thirty to forty hours at a stretch, are required. Then the vessel proceeds to sea and, without intervening rest, the men begin their sea watches. Men who work thus are too much exhausted to attend to safety of ship and passengers. Yet in this condition they go to the lookout, to the wheel, and to other work upon which the safety of all depends. Men on shore demand and often get the eight-hour day and the six-day working week. Seamen ask simply watch and watch at sea (two on deck, three in fireroom) and a nine-hour workday in port, except in emergencies. Such regulations are provided for in Senate bill 136. Are you in favor of abolishing the only remaining slave laws on our statute books? Are you in favor of completing a work begun by Abraham Lincoln more than half a century ago? If so, write your Congressman today and demand action now—at this session of Congress!

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

A. D. 1914.

By Frank Stephens.

The searchlight's sword thrust, blinding bright,
Stabs thro' the starry summer-night.
Shrapnel and shell tear shrieking by
Where late the white doves circled high.
Gone from the once fair village street
The lovers' laugh, the childish feet.
Where Smiled Peace, Life and Hope before
Red Madness raves,
—And this is War.

Crushed lies that on the sodden earth
To which some woman's pangs gave birth.
Wasted the love, the toil, the care,
The father-pride, the mother-prayer,
The baby's hug, the young wife's kiss.
Now but a nameless, shapeless this
That from its rotting foulness gory
Stinks to the flies,
—And this is Glory.

Where red flames streak the cannon's pall,
Beside her dead home's smouldering wall,
She crouches in the ashen dust
Twin victim of the conqueror's lust.
Her butchered husband has been shown
Mercy, beside what she has known—
Black terror, outrage, burning shame
That moans for death,
—And this is Fame.

Wasted upon the barren plain
The dead Christ's blood drips fresh again.
A people conquering crown the wrong
With brutal boast and drunken song.
A people conquered curse their fate,
Outraged and ravished, mad with hate
Some later murder count to tell—
And this is war,
—And War is Hell.

Evangelist William R. Hearst appears to think the United States owes it to the Mexicans to show them the Heavenward path. No doubt enough troops, with enough machine guns, could show quite a number of Mexicans the pearly gates.—Craig Ralston.

THE STRANGER.

By Norman Tiptaft in The (London) Labour Leader.

"There is always in Nature," said the philosopher, "what one might term the law of compensation. What I mean is that if, say a man loses the use of one organ, the others increase in development, so that that which he previously performed with five senses he is able to do with four. The man who is blind finds his hearing more acute, and so on. The principle extends right through. Poor people are happy, rich people miserable. Youth is unable to afford the things it would enjoy; it is better without them. Age can afford it and doesn't desire them. I saw only today a beautiful motor-car; in it an ugly, wrinkled old woman. Well, there you are. It is highly improbable the car was any pleasure to her; she was too old for it, but it was certainly convenient. She had lost her power of getting about as she could when she was young, and compensation comes to her in the shape of a motor. Or, again, look at man as compared with the animals. He is weaker, more liable to disease, less able to rough it than they, and, as compensation, he has a brain which enables him to overcome their strength, prevent him from contracting disease, or cure it when contracted, and generally to look after himself in such a manner as to make up for what he physically lacks."

"In short," said the parson, "the universe is ruled by justice, and Browning hit it off correctly when he said, 'God's in his heaven; all's right with the world.'"

"That's just it," replied the philosopher, "actually things are all right. There are, of course, as I readily admit, certain evils in the world, but each has a compensating good. That, in fact, is the reason of evil. If there were none, we couldn't appreciate the other side. Fancy being good with the goodness of a stone image; that sort of goodness—something which is merely negative—is no use. Because a man can't commit evil, that is no proof that he is good. It is when he can commit it and doesn't that he proves his goodness."

"I am glad," said the parson, "to hear you speak like this. Lately, I must admit, I have been somewhat disturbed in my mind as to the justice of the universe. Like you, I recognize that evil is a real thing. Like you, I believe it necessary, only I have placed against it as compensation, not so much the benefits we obtain through it on earth as those we shall obtain in the after world. I look on it as a discipline necessary to us, as all discipline is necessary, to fit us for something better than we have yet attained, and I am glad to find that, arguing from a different standpoint, you have reached practically the same conclusion. After all, this is certain, that a belief in the ultimate justice of the universe has done more than anything else to inspire people to nobler and better lives."

"Oh," said the business man, "I think most folks will admit that. Personally, I never have much time to think whether the universe is founded on justice or not, but I am certain the idea that it is is a good one for all classes of society. Things are as they are, make the best of them. That is the ticket. Take the majority of my 'hands' (and they are typical of the working classes of this country). I can't afford to pay them big wages; competition makes it impossible. If I could pay them more I would, but I can't, and that's the end of it. Well, now, practically all of them are convinced that it's for the best. They live in uncomfortable homes; they cannot afford any luxuries; often they end their days in the workhouse, and yet they firmly believe that it was divinely ordained to be so. I don't say I believe it myself, but supposing they didn't, what would happen? You would simply have red revolution, and the last state would be worse than the first; all of which, to my mind, proves quite clearly that whether there be compensation in this world, as the philosopher says there is, or in the next, as the parson affirms, it is a good thing for people to believe it so."

"Pardon my intrusion," said the Stranger, "but do you think it better for people to believe something which is not true because it keeps them quiet, than to search after the truth, even if it makes them restless?"

"Precisely," said the business man.

"I would rather say," said the parson, "that a belief, even if it be not logically correct, providing it satifies the individual, is better than agnosticism."

"I say very little about belief," said the philosopher. "My point was that facts went to show that the universe was based on the principles of justice."

"Yes," replied the Stranger, "and you proved your case by quoting the old lady and the motor-car, the fact that blind people's hearing was usually acute, and the superiority of man over the animals. From these isolated instances you argued that for all evils there was some compensating good, and, therefore, everything was all right."

"I admitted there were certain evils."

"Exactly; so did the parson. But, again, you quoted them as almost blessings because of the compensation they brought; in your view, in this world—in his view, in the next. Let me hazard a guess. You, sir"—his eyes seemed to look clean through the philosopher—"have never known what it is to go hungry because you had no money to buy food?"

"Food? Good gracious, no!" said the philosopher.

"And you, sir," he turned to the parson, "are in an exceedingly comfortable living?"

"Well, er—I—er—"

"Isn't it so?" said the Stranger quietly.

"Yes," said the parson, "though, of course—"

But the Stranger didn't hear him. He was looking at the man of business.

"You, sir, I believe, were quite honest in your confession that you had no time to worry over the principles of the universe," he said. "The fact that your 'hands' accepted their position as right was good enough for you, and you admitted that in order to keep you you found it more convenient that they should believe so; that if they didn't there might be trouble."

"That is my position exactly," said the business man. "I don't defend the system; I admit that the poor devils, many of them, have a hell on earth. I admit that they live in rotten slums; that they are underpaid, underfed, overworked; that a decent dog has a better life than millions of working men and women. But if I and the few like me are to be comfortable—or rather, to have luxury—then there is nothing else for it. We are on top; we have no desire to risk going underneath, and so we keep them there—but don't think I fail to see what happens to them—I do."

"Quite so," said the Stranger. "I can appreciate your position. You do not pose as an elevator of humanity?"

"I do not; I am out to make all I can for myself."

"Exactly, but your logical mind tells you that, for some people, there is no compensation. That their life on earth is hell, and that the future affords no guarantee of anything better?"

"That is so."

"Have you never," said the Stranger, "thought of what that means? No hope here; no hope hereafter. Life a perpetual torture; death an eternal night. See here, I want to make an appeal to you. You are a rich man; you have influence. If you exerted that influence you could probably effect some change in our legislation which would benefit these poorer people. You would suffer misrepresentation, slander, the loss of your friends; the decline of your business. You would get in return the dull apathy of those you were trying to benefit. You would go to your grave hated by your own class; rejected by those below you. Only, a long time after you were dead, would the children of those whom you lived and died for rise up and call you blessed. And, believe me, they would. Will you do it?"

"Does it sound a tempting offer to a commercial mind?" said the business man.

"Hardly, except that with all its defects the commercial mind in this sees things as they are."

There was a pause, and then the business man walked over to the Stranger and held out his hand.

"I'll do it!" he said.

"My dear fellow—" said the philosopher.

"Most extraordinary!" began the parson.

But the Stranger interrupted.

"Not at all," he said. "You, sir, are a preacher of the gospel. You follow, I believe, one Jesus of Nazareth. He came preaching about the Kingdom of God on earth. You have removed it to a distant heaven. You dare not preach it on earth because you know you would offend your rich and respectable congregation. You might, it is true, attract the poor and the despised of the world, but your modern religions take little heed of them."

"And you, sir," he turned to the philosopher, "are contented with things as they are. You have reason to be, for you have all that your own small imagination could desire. Philosophise while you may, for to you also the night cometh."

"Your name?" said the parson and the philosopher in one breath.

"I was called," said the Stranger, "some time ago, 'The Son of Man.'"

He put his hand through the business man's arm, and they passed out together.

"The Son of Man," stammered the parson, "could it have been—"

"I expect it was," said the philosopher.

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THREE SENSIBLE SOLDIERS.

By O. R. Washburn in New York Call.

Hans and Henri and I sat down by the bloomin' city of Liege,
They had red cards and so had I, and we weren't real fierce for the siege.
We laid our guns in a friendly heap and smoked and talked awhile,
We who were sent to shoot and die; men of the rank and file.

Hans spoke of Margaret back by the Rhine and Henri of girls by the Seine,
I of Kate, that wife of mine I left in an English lane,
And we reasoned it out, we common men, that instead of enriching the loam
Our bodies would suit us just as well if kept alive and at home.

Hans, he saw it, and Henri saw, and I got the point myself,
And so I says: "Why don't you blokes lay this killing war on the shelf?"
"Why don't," says I, "we bloomin' fools, if we have to fight and die,
Fight for ourselves, to run this world?" And Comrade Hans said: "Vy?"

"Why don't we take the crowns and swords and ships and courts and lands,
And the whole big show and run it ourselves; we have the guns in our hands.
"Politicians and Kings," says I, "they have their business, see?
But we have ours, let's we take charge!" And Henri nodded "Oui."

We heard them fighting all afternoon as we sat in the shade and smoked,
And this explains, oh Comrades mine, why none of us three got croaked,
And when the people get tired of war and listen to sense a bit
I think the ideas of such blokes as us may somehow make a hit.

Then we will be the kings and lords, along with some millions more,
And make things right for folks like us, as has never been done before,
Each will be a kaiser and prince with his fellows to help along,
While each race rules to the full extent that its mind shall show up strong.

My name is Bill, I am millions strong, as all the world can see,
And as I talked friend Hans approved and Henri nodded, "Oui."

BOOKS

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

The High Cost of Living. By Karl Kautsky. Translated by Austin Lewis. Charles H. Kerr & Co., Chicago, 1914.

This little book discusses the effect of increased gold production on prices. It is well known that this is one of those questions on which authorities differ. Kautsky reaches the conclusion that the influx of gold has been a cause, but not the only cause, of the rise in prices since 1896. Tariffs, monopolies, land speculation and increased armaments are given as other causes. Kautsky's opinion is, however, that since 1894 "the effects of gold production predominated and made themselves earlier and more powerfully felt than the other factors—with the exception of tariffs which only operated in a transitory fashion." He does not think this will continue. A survey of the various gold fields indicates to him, if not a probable decline in the supply of new gold, at least a less rapid increase than in the period since 1896; and this means a check to prosperity. "If gold production operates as a means of advancing prosperity then it is not enough if it continue merely in the same measure as at present or in a lessened degree. It must grow manifold and without interruption."

The problem of high prices is not the same thing as that of the high cost of living. Kautsky finds that a rise in prices does not necessarily mean either prosperity or adversity. "Generally speaking it may be said that a rise in prices which springs from an increase in demand is attended by conditions which signify heightened prosperity and that on the other hand a rise in prices which causes (is caused by?) a discontinuance or stopping of supply produces the greatest misery."

In which category does the advance since 1896 belong? Kautsky would probably say that this has been a period of prosperity, that statement being subject to all the qualifications implied in the Socialistic view of the condition of the wage earner under a capitalistic system of production. Perhaps that is equivalent to saying that there is not much left of the statement.

Some authorities have reached more definite conclusions. Professor Fisher is quoted in the introduction thus: "Moreover, so far as American statistics show, such as those of Bradstreet and the Department of Labor, wages have risen only about half as fast as the cost of living. In other words, during rising prices the laborer is the loser. In fact, his strikes and insistent demands for higher wages represent a belated attempt to overtake the advancing cost of living."

This suggests an inquiry. In any line of business in which profits advance twice as fast as wages, profits must be growing large. What protects such lines of business against the influx of capital attracted by such profits? We may not be able to compel concerns in such lines to compete; in fact, our efforts to do so have not, as yet, been crowned with success; but perhaps we could give outside capital a better chance than it has at present.

On the whole this book, including the translator's introduction, which has an interest of its own, gives the impression that the authorities differ principally in the importance they assign to the influx of gold as a factor in the price movement. Few, if any, would deny that it has had some influence, and perhaps none would say that it has been the sole influence. Still less would it be held to explain the wide variations in the advances shown by different commodities; or in the relative advance of wages and commodities; and consequently it can hardly be accepted as a sufficient explanation of the high cost of living.

WILLIAM E. McKENNA.

When my child disobeys, if I beat him until I break his bones or confine him in a dungeon until I destroy his ambition and then have to support a cripple or imbecile, am I wise? And yet that is just what society is doing with her present methods of penal servitude.—Convict 6899, Washington State Penitentiary.

Mr. Roosevelt says he has discovered a river, and the scientists say it must run up hill. If Teddy has really discovered that kind of a river, we will have more confidence henceforth in his theory that he can make people rich by taxing them.—Craig Ralston.

"Have you anything to say before sentence is pronounced against you?" asked the judge.

"The only thing I'm kicking about," answered the convicted burglar, "is bein' identified by a man that kep' his head under the bedclothes the whole time. That's wrong."—Puck.

A young man who had joined the army and gone to the Philippines sent a cablegram to his father in a little "upcountry" town. The day after the message arrived the father was speaking about it to a friend.

"Great thing, that telegraph, Josh," remarked the father. "Jes' think of that message comin' all them thousands of miles!"

"Yes," was the hearty response of Josh, "and so thunderin' quick, too."

"Thunderin' quick!" exclaimed the father. "Well, I should say so. When I got that message the mucilage on the envelope wasn't dry yet."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

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"You're a man of education, I presume?" asked the prospective employer of the applicant for the vacant secretaryship.

"Yes," said the applicant modestly.

"H'm!" was the comment. "I should like some proof of it. Do you speak French?"

"A little."

"And—er—do you know anything of Latin?"

"Well, sir, I started to learn it, and got on fairly well. But look here, sir. Who on earth could get his tongue around such words as MDCCCXIV? I don't believe any one living could do it, so I threw it up and took up shorthand."—Sacred Heart Review.

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"If you don't mind, sir," said the new convict, addressing the warden, "I should like to be put at my own trade."

"That might be a good idea," said the warden; "what may your trade be?"

"I'm an aviator," said the new arrival.—Houston (Texas) Post.