

to beget a mercenary spirit; yet they are sufficient, when taken in connection with the honor of standing first in the contest, to call forth the best efforts of the students. The practice of this plan for the past six months has resulted in a wide interest in the Singletax among the students, and an awakening interest among their parents. s. c.



Philadelphia's Traction Agreements.

The city of Philadelphia has decided to enter into another agreement with the local traction company. Whether the agreement is a fair one or not is for those conversant with its details to decide. But this much is known. It is only seven years since the city made its last agreement with the same corporation in which the company agreed not to increase its rate of fare. This agreement was violated through withdrawal of the sale of six tickets for twenty-five cents and institution of straight five-cent fares instead. The courts accommodatingly distorted the English language to legalize the violation. That the same city should make another agreement with the same corporation and depend on the same courts to protect its contractual rights seems poor policy. Has Philadelphia forgotten the saying: "If a man fools me once it is his fault. If he fools me twice it is mine"? s. d.



Disregard for Law.

At a time when we have an army in possession of a foreign city, impatient for orders to go in and "clean up the country," and reduce it to civilization, law and order, the president of the Illinois State Bar Association, in an address opening the annual convention of that organization, used these significant words: "At the outset we must admit that the inhabitants of the United States are the most lawless of all civilized peoples." And by way of illustration, the speaker said the number of murders per million of inhabitants in different countries was: "Canada, 3; Germany, 4-5; England and Wales, 10-11; France, 12-15; Belgium, 15; United States, over 129." London, in 1912, had 86 murders; Chicago had in the same year 231. And had Chicago's rate been based on London's population, its number would have been 693. Almost three thousand lynchings had taken place in the United States during the past ten years. Nor were civil laws any better observed than criminal.



This is the burden of addresses delivered by

legal experts, from one end of the country to the other; and innumerable are the remedies proposed. That our legal system escaped the drag of the muckrakers must be due to the inborn reverence that the law-abiding have for the courts; and that the system has at last exhausted this superstitious awe is evident from the proposed recall of judges, and judicial decisions, advanced by radical reformers, and eagerly accepted by a long-suffering people. Whatever may be the matter with our legal system—and it is not for a mere layman to criticise the minutia of the law—one thing is certain: If the lawyers and judges do not reform the machinery of the law, the people will. We have lawyer law, and judge judgments, and the result is so far from justice and common sense that the average citizen looks upon the whole legal system as a terrible engine in the hands of his enemies. He believes absolutely that the poor have no redress against the rich, because a clever lawyer with a rich client can continue litigation indefinitely. And with cases dragging on ten, fifteen and twenty years, in the courts, this state of mind is natural.



The American people are no more immoral, and no more criminal minded than the people of other countries. Their disregard for law is due to the fact that the law has invited disrespect. Our cosmopolitan and heterogeneous population contains a large element of people so poor that they feel that wrongs not redressed by themselves will not be redressed at all. And this legal suspicion and hopelessness has so permeated society that we have become the "most lawless of all civilized peoples." There is but one way to make our people law abiding: Make the laws just, and administer them impartially. Quibbling must cease, technicalities must be brushed aside, and interminable delays must be brought to an end. The poor must stand upon the same footing before the law as the rich; and this fact alone requires that the judgment be speedy, and its execution certain. In a word, the law must be converted from an impotent relic of the past into an efficient agent of the present. s. c.



Individual Humanitarianism.

In the death of Jacob A. Riis the country, and the world, has lost one of its finest citizens; for he was a man who supremely loved his fellow men, and devoted his whole life to their service. In the days of frenzied finance, big business, and the rule of the almighty dollar, he was content to devote