

the success or failure of this man are we to know that Democracy is still wedded to its Bourbon idols, or has seen a new light. Political bosses can do much—particularly when they are as clever and resourceful as this one—but they can do nothing when the people assert themselves in opposition. It is the indifference of the people that makes the opportunity of the boss. The direct vote will allow the people to do what they will. But the direct vote is useless without the will of the people behind it. It is not automatic, nor is it foolproof; it is merely an instrument that reflects the will of those using it. Should Illinois Democrats, with a choice of men like John Z. White and Roger C. Sullivan before them, choose the latter, it will demonstrate that the State is worthy of no better representation than it will have; and real democrats will know that Democracy is a cloak for Bourbonism.

S. C.

### A Protectionist Free Trader.

It was in 1909 that Mr. L. N. Littauer, glove manufacturer and former Congressman, exerted influence which brought a heavy increase in the tariff on gloves. It was in 1914 that this same L. N. Littauer was detected in an attempt to smuggle. He would have the government rob others. He would not himself be robbed.

Ordinarily a detected smuggler need feel no more humiliation than if he had been detected in trying to escape the attentions of an illegal highwayman. But Littauer's case is different. The exposure shows what he honestly thinks of the tariff. It shows that in his heart he believes free trade to be right. It strengthens the suspicion that others prominent in fastening protective robbery on the people feel the same way. Unintentionally he has cast discredit on the policy of protection. His punishment is thus in the nature of atonement—not for his offense against the law—but for the real wrong he committed; the part played by him in securing imposition of tariff duties. If the fine he paid could be used to reimburse the victims of the high tariff on gloves the atonement would be more satisfactory.

S. D.

### Bleeding Mexico.

Of all the adjectives applied to Mexico, from "barbarous" to "manana," none seems more apt than the one applied to Kansas during its struggle against the introduction of chattel slavery. Bleeding Mexico it was at the dawn of history; and

bleeding Mexico it is today. To the natural savagery of the earlier tribes that occupied the country the Aztecs added a system of human sacrifice that seems to have left its bloody trail down to the present time. The war god Mexitl, or Huitzilopochtli, who stood at the head of this heathen pantheon, could be propitiated only by liberal sacrifices of human lives. Wars were waged for the purpose of securing prisoners to offer up on their altars to this monster-deity; and it is estimated that a single year saw as many as 20,000 men, women, and children laid upon the sacrificial stone, and their quivering hearts held up to the gaze of the people. A large part of the Mexican people are descendants of the Aztecs; is it so very strange that Mexican prisoners of war today should be sacrificed to the god of war?

Nor is this propensity for shedding blood, terrible as it is, the worst feature of Mexican history. From its earliest days the country has been subject to an economic condition that has produced a handful of rich, and a nation of poor, great wealth in a few hands, and nation-wide poverty. This was the condition in the time of the Aztecs; it is the condition today, a land of peons and great estates. The conquering Spaniards added nothing in the nature of democracy, and little in the way of mercy; for it may well be doubted if to live the life of a hopeless peon is preferable to immolation on the sacrificial stone. This condition is unnatural; and the struggle to right it is inevitable. But the Mexican problem is complicated by the composition of its population. The Spaniards, owing to their superior power in warfare, have been able to hold in subjection the great mass of natives; and the slow-grown Mexican class of mixed blood has lent itself to the same manipulation, so that wealth of the mass of the people has gone into the coffers of the small fighting class. The people in general lack the sense of solidarity necessary to enable them to make head against their oppressors. But the oppression is felt; and leaders will continue to take the field in behalf of the oppressed whenever there is the least weakness shown by the governing class.

Of the long succession of conquerors and usurpers who have held the government at Mexico City since the republic was established ninety years ago, none has been able to do more than maintain military possession. Civil government in the sense understood by Americans, Mexico has never had. Democracy and human rights have had no

recognition, because the small dominant class, backed by custom, tradition, church, and army, has been able to maintain its position on the backs of the people. President Porfirio Diaz's long administration, which superficial observers have heralded as the ideal for Mexico, was in reality the worst possible government for the people as a whole. Peace he brought, it is true, but it was the peace of Warsaw. He held down the people while adventurers from abroad robbed them of the little their native masters had overlooked. A man of great cleverness, and possessed of all the arts of the tyrant, he was able to hold the great landed proprietors on the backs of the peons. If it be admitted that a civilization may be composed of peons and hacendados, then the Diaz system is correct; for the industrial pyramid can be balanced on its apex only by the support of bayonets.



Madero's support came from the peon class and its sympathizers. But once in possession of the government, he lacked the will or the power to right their wrongs. His administration was rendered impotent by the support of the privileged classes, as all administrations will be that receive that support. Huerta vaulted boldly into the Diaz saddle, but he lacks the ability to manage the steed. That he was unworthy of recognition by civilized governments was evident from the beginning of his usurpation; but that his opponents, the Constitutionalists, should be recognized was not so clear. The safe course for our government to pursue was that of watchful waiting. Our motives in Latin American affairs had been questioned, and certain acts had fallen under suspicion; only the most scrupulous neutrality could regain international confidence. This course has been vindicated. Huerta has at no time had any support but that of the privileged classes, who are desirous of perpetuating the military regime. But his supine inactivity stamps him as an incompetent. He is not even a successful tyrant. General Carranza, on the other hand, and his chief lieutenant, General Villa, are, if we may trust the many reports that have come in, conscious of the social and industrial problems of Mexico; and they have given some evidence of good faith by confiscating some of the great landed estates that had been stolen from the people. Mexican peace and prosperity is dependent, not upon the ability of the Constitutionalists to maintain themselves by force of arms, but upon the abolition of the twin evils: Peonage and a landed aristocracy. The industrial pyramid must be set upon its base, if there is to be permanent stability. Should Carranza and

Villa fail in this, should they permit the privileged oligarchy to get the upper hand, as did Madero, then more champions of the people will appeal to arms, and Mexico will continue to bleed.

S. C.



#### A Good Judicial Selection.

Cincinnati is about to be numbered among the cities whose juvenile court happens to be a useful institution. This is assured by the selection of Judge Frank M. Gorman to preside over it. Judge Gorman's previous record on the bench makes it appear probable that the Cincinnati court will take front rank. Tyrannical abuse of power, either in the issue of injunctions or in setting aside or misconstruction of legislative acts, has not been a feature of Judge Gorman's court. He has been scrupulously fair and logical in his rulings. Were his type more prevalent upon the bench there would be less need felt for the Recall.

S. D.



#### The Peixotto Case—A Question of Authority.

However one may sympathize with the New York teacher who is contesting in the courts the Board of Education's right to dismiss her for "neglect of duty" because, without leave of absence, she remained away from school to bear a child; however narrow-minded and mistaken one may judge the New York Board to be in its policy toward mothers as teachers—and it is mistaken; whatever one's feelings in those particulars, the truth remains that the Appellate Court's decision upholding the Board's power of dismissal is reasonable and just.



Other qualifications of two persons being equal, the parent will probably make the better teacher. Educational experience and human logic both point to that conclusion. The stand of the New York Board of Education against mothers in the schools—if the Board does take that position, as reports indicate—is not to be defended for a moment. Either the Board is incompetent in not being able to organize a school system that will admit of lengthy leaves of absence on the part of its efficient employees; or the Board is blind to the best interests of the public schools in yielding to an old sex-prejudice instead of inquiring solely into the individual abilities of its teaching staff. But neither the incompetence nor the prejudice of the Board is the point at issue. The question is this: Is this woman an employe of the Board of Education, subject as such to its stated rules? Has