

pavements, and all manner of governmental services. All confer a value upon land owners in addition to what is conferred upon other citizens; and this special interest constitutes one of the chief sources of political corruption, and inefficiency of public management. Remove this special interest of one class of citizens, and the way will be cleared for the legitimate extension and operation of all kinds of public service. Continue this special interest, and public service will be clogged and stalled in spite of all the good intentions in the world.

s. c.

Exploiting Misfortune.

To engratiate themselves in public esteem newspapers are ever ready to demonstrate their faith in the virtues of advertising by seizing upon every striking event. Oftentimes these enterprises are of public benefit in righting wrongs and in relieving suffering. But occasionally they are of questionable merit. The keen rivalry between the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Herald is responsible for a venture whose wisdom may be questioned. When the Herald hit upon the idea of sending a Christmas ship to Europe with presents from the children of America to the children of the war-afflicted countries it caught the public imagination. The press throughout the country took up the idea, and the response has been such as to warm the heart of the veriest cynic. But now the Tribune, eager to do something to offset this happy stroke of the Herald's, launches a plan to bring the "war orphans" to America. It proposes to send to Europe "a corps of physicians and nurses who will see that no children are accepted except those free from taint of every sort—strong, sturdy, bright-eyed, clean-limbed children such as can be welcomed in the Tribune homes with safety."

Without questioning the motives or the propriety of such an undertaking, its justice and wisdom are doubtful. If the act be urged in behalf of the unfortunate children of Europe who have been orphaned by the war then no discrimination should be made against the ill-favored, the sickly, and the crippled children. It is, indeed, these doubly unfortunate little ones who should receive first consideration. Were the Master who so long ago cried, "Suffer little children to come unto Me," to carry physical succor to the war orphans there is little doubt as to which He would select first. But if the act be urged on behalf of families in this country who are in need of chil-

dren then it is of doubtful wisdom to deprive those countries of their "strong, sturdy, bright-eyed, clean-limbed children," and leave the others. The greatest of the hardships to the warring countries will be the lowering of the standard of the physique of their people. The strongest, sturdiest, brightest-eyed, and cleanest-limbed men are being killed off at an unprecedented rate. The general size and strength of the races are being lowered. The proportion of defectives will be much greater than they were before the war. It is not to the interest of this country that those nations should deteriorate. On the contrary, it is of the utmost importance to the world at large that they recover as quickly as possible from this awful calamity.

How ill advised, then, would be a movement to bring to this country the finest of the children. That the children, both the favored and the ill-favored, should be aided to the utmost power of our resources goes without saying; but the best way to help all the children is to serve them in their own lands and among their own people. One dollar will go as far there as three dollars here; and every sturdy son and daughter matured there will to that extent help to redeem the blighted nations. Let the Tribune do its utmost to save the war orphans—and may great success attend its efforts—but let it do so with a view to saving the unhappy nations as well as the children. And should it be found that the warring nations object to our sifting their seed and culling the best, as they might most naturally do, let not the generous hearted Americans, who would help the best of the children as their own, withhold their hand from the less favored.

s. c.

Observing Treaties.

Some of the Americans who are pointing the finger of scorn at Germany for disregarding the treaty with Belgium should pause now and again to recall the effort required to keep this country from repudiating its treaty with Great Britain regarding the Panama Canal. When we had throttled the Philippine Republic, we were estopped from protesting against England's destruction of the Boer Republics. Had we exempted American ships from Panama tolls in defiance of our treaty with England, we should have had to be silent in the presence of the invasion of Belgium.

s. c.

William Denison.

A quiet and unobtrusive, but none the less effi-