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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:

A Lifetime Well Used.....	193
A Significant Straw Vote.....	193
Lloyd George and the Dukes.....	193
Governor Colquitt's Opportunity.....	194
Paying Taxes as a Duty.....	195
An Evil and Its Remedy.....	195
The Conference on Unemployment.....	196
Russian Poverty and the Czar.....	196
Still True to Privilege.....	196
Welghed in the Balance.....	196
Purblind Ship-Owners.....	197
Tyranny in the Army.....	197
Bickering Over the Non-Essentials.....	197
A Colorado Court's Confession.....	197
The Judicial Vacancy.....	198
The Chicago School Masque.....	198
John Sherwin Crosby.....	198
Joseph Fels.....	199

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE:

Depression in Saskatchewan—George W. Atkinson. 200

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS:

Conserved Lands Open to Use—Philip P. Wells..... 201
How Holland Manages—John Visher..... 201

NEWS NARRATIVE:

Death of Joseph Fels.....	201
English Politics.....	203
Mexico and the United States.....	203
Arbitration Treaties Confirmed.....	203
Alaskan Railroad Bill Passes House.....	204
The Labor War.....	204
Chicago Schools.....	204
Tax Reform News.....	205
News Notes.....	206
Press Opinions.....	207

RELATED THINGS:

Joseph Fels—Frank Stephens.....	208
New Schools and True Democrats, III. Relating the School to Life—John Dewey.....	208
Two Women on a Hill-Top. No. 1, The Lonesome Woman—Charles Howard Shinn.....	209
The True Vision—Augustine Duganne.....	209

BOOKS:

Business Profits and the Social Welfare.....	210
Pamphlets.....	210
Periodicals.....	211

EDITORIAL

A Lifetime Well Used.

Joseph Fels left this world on February 22, but because of his work while here it is being made a better place in which to live. What man has yet lived of whom more could be said? s. d.



A Significant Straw Vote.

Significant is the result of the trial referendum taken by the Grain Growers' Guide of Winnipeg. The organ of the farmers of Western Canada, it has secured from its readers an expression of opinion on various subjects. The result shows that no misrepresentation by plunderbund agents—such as led the farmers of Oregon, California and Missouri to vote against their own interests in 1912—can have similar results in Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba. Politicians in those three provinces, who feel inclined to oppose progress, had better scan the Grain Growers' Guide's returns and carefully consider their future course. The trial referendum shows that an overwhelming majority of the farmers of these three provinces favor equal suffrage, direct legislation in an effective reform, absolute free trade and Single-tax. The result shows not only the extent of intelligent progressiveness among the rural voters of Western Canada, but demonstrates the ability and influence of the Grain Growers' Guide. s. d.



Lloyd George and the Dukes.

The advantage of having a touchstone with which to test the genuineness of a reform movement is seen in British politics. Men and movements in other countries may be of doubtful worth, and there may arise a question as to their sincerity or good faith; but the Englishman has an infallible test: When the London Times speaks, all doubt vanishes. For no sooner does the Times, seriously, ponderously, and with aforethought, condemn a social reformer, or a movement looking to the limitation of the privileges of the nobility,

than the world at large knows the man is sincere, or the movement has merit, and both are effective. The Times does not repel all attacks on the nobility, but only such as are likely to attain their end. Socialists, Anarchists, and Utopians of all schools, religious and economic, may inveigh against the privileged classes to their heart's content, and the "Thunderer" will remain as mute as a pensioned clergy; but let a political party, or a leader who has the power to carry out his purpose, lay hands upon the sacred institution of Privilege, and the storm-swept heavens do not reverberate as does the atmosphere about Printing House Square.



David Lloyd George is the latest favorite of fortune. There have been those who have doubted the wisdom and the good faith of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But they can doubt no longer. The Times has spoken. And it has spoken with all the solemnity and circumstance of the medieval church pronouncing the doom of a heretic. The Chancellor is charged with political blackmail, maliciousness, and lying, and—worst of all—with being afflicted with mental infirmities. Referring to his attacks on dukes, the Times says: "Mr. Lloyd George's horror of those who happen to occupy this position, for which they are not responsible, is so fanatical and unreasoning that it amounts to a fixed idea such as is described by writers on mental pathology as an obsession. . . . He suppresses other names, but goes out of his way to abuse dukes." And after giving time, occasion, and circumstance, and deploring the cultivation of a spirit that "debases public life," and "discredits not only ourselves but the whole country in the eyes of foreign observers," the Times closes with the statement that "the feelings of dukes are not what matter most. It is the question of the whole conduct of public life."



David Lloyd George is a forceful man, possessed of an idea. He believes that the wealth of the world is produced by the workers of the world. Being a practical-minded man he sees that it is not possible to give to the workers what they produce without depriving the idlers of what they enjoy. And being a successful politician he realizes that great masses of men can be moved only by an appeal to their imagination. The mere fact of unrequited toil and parasitic privilege may appear on a small farm, as well as on a great estate, but the average man is not able to sense it. He is still enough of a child to want his text written large. Hence, Lloyd George holds up the English

Duke to public ridicule. But how can this harm innocent men? The Englishman may be a little slow, but he is sure. No nation, when its better self has been awakened, has a finer sense of fair play. And if the dukes suffer from the Chancellor's attacks, it can only be because they are guilty. England is confronted with a very menacing condition. Rural life has become so intolerable to labor that it is fleeing the country. The only way to stop this is to raise the wages and conditions of the laborer; in a word, raise the standard of living in England to something nearer what it is in the newer countries. This can be done either by laying greater burdens upon manufacturers and other industries, or by placing it on the idle landlords. Lloyd George has chosen the latter course. Hence, the attack of the "Thunderer." For that unflinching organ of toryism well knows that if the dukes, who are the rarest fruit of the Tree of Privilege, can be shaken off, the rest must follow. No one need doubt hereafter that the name of Lloyd George has become a point in history, no less than a factor in English politics. s. c.



Governor Colquitt's Opportunity.

Governor Colquitt of Texas is reported in a recent speech to have made the following statement: "We ought to have a law in Texas requiring owners of unused tracts of land of unhealthy size to alienate their surplus of holdings. We ought to have a land credit union law in Texas that will enable those who produce to own the entire fruits of their toil. We need legislation that will make home owning possible and home enjoyment the rule."



The Governor's suggestions are rather hazy, although his aim to "make home owning possible and home enjoyment the rule" is unquestionably a desirable one. He does not explain what he means by "tracts of land of an unhealthy size." But any definition he may give of that term must necessarily be an arbitrary one. If, instead of size, he would make use the measure by which he would determine the healthfulness of the holding, he would come nearer to a correct solution. A holding put by the holder to its most productive use, will be a more healthful one, no matter how large it may be, than a small plot put to other than its most productive use or not used at all. Texas is said to have no less than one hundred million acres of arable land unused. Harmful as the withholding from use of this vast area undoubtedly is, there is even greater harm in the