

after the judge starts on his vacation. He lies in jail until the judge returns from his summer outing, when he is found to be innocent of the crime and is dismissed. Is society so poor that it cannot hire enough judges to keep the courts open the year around? Or are the judges so indifferent to another's misfortune that they cannot arrange their vacations so they will not all occur at the same time?



A companion evil seems to be in the course of removal by the action of the people of Los Angeles County, California, who, under the provisions of a new charter, have appointed a public defender. We have always had judges to determine the guilt of culprits, and prescribe punishment. But the state was not content with that. It appointed a special prosecutor, whose function now, whatever it may have been in the beginning, is to make out a case against the alleged offender. This worked no hardship in the case of rich offenders, for they were able to hire the best lawyers to defend them. But in the case of the poor it has been a grievous hardship. They have had the perfunctory service of such legal talent as the court might appoint to defend them, or have been obliged to sacrifice their meager funds. Why? To establish their innocence, if innocent; to prevent too severe a punishment if guilty. For it is not part of the state's attorney's duty to determine the guilt or innocence of the man who has fallen into the hands of the law, nor even to find out the degree of guilt. He, armed with all the power of the State, devotes his full force to securing a conviction: let the victim beware. The prestige of the sheriff's office, the detective force, and the office of the state's attorney depends, not upon meting out justice, but in securing convictions.



At last we have a community that is trying to establish justice. It will be strange work for a time. The legal machinery will groan and creak alarmingly, for the public defender will be confronted by the precedents of two thousand years; but if he wins it will be a magnificent victory. If Los Angeles County shall establish the same means to prove a man's innocence that it has to prove his guilt; in a word, if it will establish even-handed justice, it will do more to beget respect for the law than has yet been done. s. c.



### Incomplete Restitution.

Autonomy to the Philippines is not a fulfillment of the Democratic party's pledge. That pledge was

for independence, and to independence the islands are entitled. The raising of such issues as fitness to govern themselves is a dodging of the main point. The Filipinos are entitled, for better or worse, to whatever government they wish to have regardless of whether others think it good for them or not. They are furthermore entitled to it without delay. It may be—in fact it is probable—that the toning down of concessions to the Philippines as contained in the definite grant of independence in the original Jones bill, to mere autonomy without a definite date for independence in the one just introduced, is due to the fact that nothing better can be passed. If so, it is an indictment of the honor and democracy of some Democratic Congressmen. It means that they can not be induced to regard either their pledges or the democratic principle that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. Because this is the case with so many Democratic Congressmen, a partial mitigation, instead of complete wiping out of our imperialistic disgrace, is all that is in immediate prospect. s. D.



### Municipal Ownership.

Critics who, having demonstrated that the management of private business is more efficient than that of public business, conclude that municipal operation of public utilities is therefore inadvisable, are not always careful of their premises. Private business is better managed than public business, not because the one is private and the other public, but because one is competitive and the other is not. Monopolized business, whether public or private, may never be so well managed as free business, yet a public monopoly is better than a private monopoly. Public utility services that are kept within bounds by close supervision, would be still better under public operation. For when the public has only a supervisory power the private monopolist is under irresistible temptation to control the supervisor; hence, the political graft. But when the monopoly is wholly within the control of the people there is only the administration to be watched. And when municipal operation of public utilities anywhere is considered, it should be remembered that there are still great financial interests bent upon making such operation a failure.



Notwithstanding this handicap the municipal operation of public utilities is steadily advancing. The municipally owned street railway has already vindicated itself in San Francisco, as it has

in Monroe, La., Edmonton, Alberta, and in many other places large and small. One of the most widely advertised experiments in municipalization of public utilities is the street car system of Glasgow, Scotland, which the recent report of James Dalrymple, the general manager, shows to be an unqualified success. Not only was there an increase of \$350,000 in the earnings over the preceding year, but this result was accomplished in spite of the fact that the minimum fare of two cents had been reduced to one cent. As the two-cent fare furnished the major part of the revenue, its halving was looked upon by timid citizens as inviting disaster. The amount received from one-cent fares was \$2,114,624; from two-cent fares, \$1,827,727; three-cent, \$647,913; four-cent, \$263,476; five-cent, \$146,947; six-cent, \$82,188; seven-cent, \$79,937; eight-cent, \$13,679. It will be noted that the larger the fare the smaller the amount of revenue received, and that receipts increased through the several classes as the fare was reduced, the one-cent fare earning the largest revenue of all.

This showing of Mr. Dalrymple's report that nearly four-fifths of the total revenue was derived from the one and two-cent fares, with the one-cent fare supplying the larger part, is in keeping with the fact that it is ever the low fare that supplies the bulk of the revenue. It is so in India, in Russia, and in Europe, where the railroads derive their main support from the third and fourth class passengers, who must make up for the fine carriages occupied by the first class passengers. It is so on many of the trans-Atlantic ships, where immigrants pay for the luxurious appointments of the cabins. And it is so in this country, where the deficit of the "limited" trains, and the "trains de luxe," is made up by the people in the common coaches of the local trains. It is apparent that the average citizen is, so far as the true functions of government are concerned, in the primary class. He knows so little about the question that he falls an easy prey to the machinations of interested persons. But each new success in municipal management tends toward enlightenment of the public and an enlightened public is all that is necessary to bring about the municipalization of public utilities. s. c.

#### "To the Editor."

Those only who have had to do with newspaper publications know the thrills incident to the reading of the criticisms of correspondents, which

range all the way from the "stop my paper" of a fighting patriot, to the "more power to your pen" of a Singletaxer. But all are welcome. The stop-my-paper missives temper editorial conceit; they visualize to his aspiring mind the words of the preacher, "All is vanity," they jolt him out of his self-complacency; and they tend to keep his feet on the ground. And yet, when he has been utterly cast down; when his soul is sick, and three Republicans stop his paper; when the Democrats in Congress demonstrate the appropriateness of the party emblem, and he cries out in the anguish of his soul, What's the use?, there comes from Pundunk, or Cherry Center, or New York, the little more-power-to-your-pen letter, and all is well. The skies brighten, the birds sing, the children laugh, and the editor sallies forth to bag another dragon.

But other letters come—for the post office censorship is by no means complete. A correspondent asks, "Why do you insist upon ending every editorial with a reference to the Singletax? Stop kicking. Forget your grouch. Give us something light and witty." These are the unreasonable readers. They would have grapes from thorns and figs from thistles. It is not every editor who can snap his fingers at Fate, or crack jokes over impending social cataclysms. There is only one W. M. Reedy to pad his kicks with witticisms and decorate his grouches with scintillating figures of speech. The rest must get on as best they can with such brains as niggardly Nature has given them. If the editorials do not sparkle it is not by design; and if merriment is too often absent from the page, remember The Public does not pose as a "funny" paper, but that it is trying to the best of its ability to aid those who are striving for justice. s. c.

#### THE NEXT TARIFF BATTLE.

The Democratic platform of 1912 declares "it to be a fundamental principle of the Democratic party that the Federal government, under the Constitution has no right or power to impose or collect tariff duties except for the purposes of revenue, and we demand that the collection of such taxes shall be limited to the necessities of government economically administered."

The Underwood tariff bill redeemed this pledge, so far as the Democratic Congressional caucus thought it, for the time being, consistent with this subsequent paragraph of the platform: "We favor the ultimate attainment of the principles,