

### Lack of Appreciation.

Complaint is made in Dean C. Worcester's work on the Philippines that Americans do not understand or appreciate what this country has done for the Islands. That is true; and that is the very reason why we should not do anything for them. What right has anybody to attempt to direct the destinies of a people they do not understand, and under conditions they do not appreciate? We have but a very hazy notion of what we are doing in various parts of this country, and our efforts have been crowned with indifferent success. The troubles in West Virginia, northern Michigan, and Colorado—not to mention more—are such as should make any citizen feel that justice and order should begin at home. Civil law has broken down. military rule has been set up, and there has been great loss of life and property. There have been investigations by the press, by commissions, and by Congress; yet who shall say with confidence where justice lies? And if we can not understand conditions in our own midst, and among our own people, what hope is there that we shall ever understand conditions among an alien people seven thousand miles across the sea?



This is not to say that the work done in the Philippines is all wrong, or that the men and women who have engaged in it have done so from ulterior motives; for it is well known that much conscientious service has been rendered. But it is to say that whether that service has been wise or the reverse is entirely a matter of chance. We know that commercial interests and public officials in this country frequently join forces to despoil the people. If they will do that here where we can watch them, how much more apt are they to do it there where they are almost immune from public opinion. The only thing that we are now warranted in doing for the Filipinos is to put them as quickly as possible in the way of doing for themselves.

S. C.



### Tainting the News.

An example of tainted news is the heading in the Chicago Record-Herald and other papers of April 30 to an Associated Press dispatch from Mobile, Alabama. The heading makes the false statement that "Singletax is failure in colony at Fairhope." There is absolutely nothing in the dispatch itself to justify such a heading. That only tells of the action of a dissatisfied lessee who has gone into court with a complaint that "The Singletax theory never can be carried out in any juris-

dition whose laws deny the essentials of that theory." Whether the complainant is right or not need not be discussed. If he is right then there can not have been a failure of the Singletax, since it cannot have been applied. If untrue there was no grievance and no cause to go into court. In either case the heading proclaims a mis-statement, the more harmful because careless readers will, without looking further into the matter, accept the false impression given as a true construction of the meaning of the dispatch.

S. D.



### Just Judges and the Recall,

A correspondent holds the recent just decision of the New Jersey Supreme Court in the case of Alexander Scott, to be an argument against the Recall. Why it should be considered so is not clear. Because the judges in this case chose to make a benevolent use of despotic power does not prove despotic power to be desirable. A benevolent despot is not a new thing. In this case the right of a free press was involved and settlement of it depended on the votes of five men. Had they decided the case other than they did, as they easily might, it would have taken years to repair the harm. No small number of individuals should have the final say in such matters, even though they may sometimes decide right. That is one reason why the Recall is necessary.

S. D.



### THE COAL STRIKE AND THE CONSERVATION POLICY.

Senator Thomas of Colorado "broke down and cried" when he recited the horrors of the strike in the mining camps, says the Washington Post. "Women and children are being killed without any opportunity to defend themselves." He "told the President . . . that the situation in Colorado was growing worse, and that Federal assistance was needed immediately." The request for Federal troops is made by Governor Ammons, by the Colorado delegation in Congress, by the coal mine owners, and by the strikers. This is interesting news to conservationists. Be it remembered that nearly all coal land in Colorado belonged to the Federal government not so very long ago, and that the nation, as owner, then had unquestionable power to lease the mines and prescribe every detail of the relations between the capitalists and laborers working them. Instead of doing so we recklessly sold much of the coal lands at \$10 or \$20 per acre, and carelessly allowed our-