

that an additional subsidy shall not be given to our already highly protected coast-wise shipping. Such a grudging performance of an obvious duty awakens little gratitude.

S. C.



Carranza's Ideas.

An interview with Venutiano Carranza, reported in the Washington Herald of June 8 by its special correspondent, Gerald Brandon, furnishes evidence that the Mexican Constitutionals are not altogether hazy regarding methods of settling the land question. General Carranza is reported to have announced his idea as follows: "Where land is needed for distribution it will readily be forthcoming. The taxation of undeveloped property will make big land-holders willing to sell. And then there is always expropriation." Given the opportunity, General Carranza would undoubtedly realize that the taxation weapon is sufficient to bring about an equitable distribution.



Other remarks in the interview show a state of affairs in Mexico regarding taxation not without parallel in this country. He had found in the city of Saltillo that "the hovels of the poor were appraised at their full value while the mansions of the rich were valued at ridiculously low figures." His first official act on installing his new government, he said, would be to order an accurate appraisal of all property. "This is a social revolution," he further declared. "Madero's was a political one. He fought for free suffrage and anti-re-election. The need of the people goes still deeper." It does seem as though General Carranza, if left to work out his own ideas, will secure adoption of internal measures more nearly correct than any likely to be suggested by the Niagara Conference.

S. D.



Court Control of Popular Rights.

By a four to three vote the Supreme Court of Illinois has upheld the Woman Suffrage Act. The right to vote of more than one million citizens is thus secured, through the gracious consent of four individuals. Had anyone of these four seen fit to join with the three opponents of suffrage these million citizens would have been disfranchised. Is it not wrong that such power should be lodged in a small body? Had the decision been against suffrage there would have been no immediate redress. Illinois has neither the recall of judges nor the recall of judicial decisions. There are so many obstacles in the way of amending the constitution that it

can be blocked by a small group. So it will be well for the new voters to remember how easily a despotic power might have deprived them of their newly acquired right. That same despotic power still exists as a menace to other rights. The checking of this menace is one of the important tasks for the voters to accomplish. A majority of the Court has used its despotic power in a benevolent manner. But the possession of such power is none the less wrong.

S. D.



Justice by Four to Three.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse, runs the old adage; but how shall the ordinary citizen know the law when four judges of the Illinois Supreme Court declare it one way, and three declare the opposite way? And why should it require a unanimous decision of twelve men to apply a law when a vote of four to three is sufficient to establish the law itself?

S. C.



Woman's Emancipation.

Where is that man who said woman was not fit for, and therefore had no right to, the suffrage? Let him come forth that we may gaze upon him—if the human eye can grasp so small an object. Imagine this self-appointed arbiter of the race, this petty potentate by whose grace the present jumble of social affairs exists, determining whether or not a body of women such as met in the biennial convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs should vote! It is possible that an all-wise Providence has provided these clogs upon the chariot of progress as a necessary factor in the eternal fitness of things. But think of a man who is willing to fill the role of a clog!



Emancipation is the everlasting cry of the goul struggling toward freedom: emancipation from priestcraft, from kingcraft, and from social, economic, and political tyranny. Some emancipations have come from the shock of war, and some from the slow but resistless appeal to reason; but all are alike in that they must await the tedious processes of the human mind. The stroke of a pen fifty years ago struck the legal shackles from four million slaves in this country; but today ten million members of that unfortunate race are as effectually bound by social shackles as were ever chattel slaves. There is no short cut to the land of freedom; nor are there any express trains. The road is the same for all, and each must tread it with his own feet.

But while there are no short cuts, and no express trains in which to ride, it is possible to aid or hinder those who pass on the toilsome way. The Negro has been doubly unfortunate. Least equipped for the journey, he has been compelled to meet the opposition of enemies, and, what is still worse, he has had to pay for the bungling of his friends. But he has been moving. His enemies, that is, his former masters have developed tolerance, and his friends are learning wisdom. He is a long way yet from the land of freedom, but he is on the way; and it is a question of patience, and of keeping on. The white man may cheer him, but white leadership is no longer indispensable. The Booker Washingtons who have sprung from the race are now taking the lead.

Woman's emancipation has been similar, both in kind and in degree. Sex prejudice was less intense than race prejudice, because tempered by personal ties; but it was very strong, and has yielded slowly before the logic of events. Still it has yielded. One has but to contrast the flippant paragrapher's fling at Susan B. Anthony thirty years ago, with the columns and pages of the press devoted to woman's affairs today, to realize the changes wrought. But the real answer to man's challenge lies in woman's achievements. In science, in art, in literature, in education, in sociology, in industry she has taken high place, and points to world-renowned members of her sex among the very foremost. And now she asks that politics be opened to her in order that she may add achievements in statecraft. What intelligent man can conscientiously withhold this right? s. c.

Disloyal Royalty.

The threat of the Liberal government to prosecute contributors to the suffragette war chest was met with taunts that the government would not dare to punish members of the Liberal party, and of royalty itself. And the capture of the militant subscription list shows that funds were contributed by the Prince of Wales, and offered by the Queen. The question arises: Was this blackmail—as hinted by royal apologists; or was it a covert attempt to embarrass the Liberal government? It is a fondly cherished English tradition that the British sovereign must take no part in politics. Yet even so conscientious a woman as Queen Victoria was not above showing her impatience when compelled to call Mr. Gladstone to her aid; and it is possible that King George would not be sorry to see the party that subjugated the lords and threat-

ens landlordism, itself overthrown. But whether royalty is so timid, or government so impotent, the fact that unexpected names were found on the militants' subscription list is no reason why English law should not take its impartial course.

s. c.

Flag Day.

Flag day has not yet become a widely observed holiday. Perhaps this is well, since the general tendency among most of those who would enforce its observance seems to be to show disrespect to the flag. This regrettable tendency is noticeable in the unpatriotic efforts to enforce salutes and other forms of mock worship. These by making a fetish of the stars and stripes, rob the national emblem of all the glory that comes only from being an object of sincere, rational, voluntary and spontaneous reverence, free from all suspicion of pretense and hypocrisy. Were Flag Day to suddenly become such a holiday as Christmas or Independence day, this method of desecration would probably become general, and the protests of the few who would save the flag from disrespect would be unheeded, if heard at all. Until the flag's worst enemies—the priests of the false worship of it as a fetish—can be debarred from seizing the day as their own, a mild or moderate observance of it is best.

s. d.

Censoring the Movies.

A vast deal of trouble is being stored for the censorially obsessed citizen. The Comstock school of art censors has been born because up to the present this has not been an art-loving nation. The post office censorship of the mails, and the police censorship of speeches, have been tolerated because they have been applied to a small and unpopular minority. But the censorship of the movies bids fair to run foul of a powerful element. Cutting out lewdness from films for public exhibition may be safely done. Scenes of murder, and of violence, such as tend to brutalize the child, may also be disposed of with a reasonable approximation to justice. But as the field of the motion picture is extended there will be developed a twilight zone in which there will be a powerful pecuniary and political interest in controlling the censorship.

The immediate prospect is the use that the Socialists may make of the new instrument. If, as has been announced, the Socialists turn to the camera as a means of propaganda, it is easily conceiv-