

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.