

laws the British government could maintain the balance between the wrangling and jealous Hindus and Mohammedans of India. And by the same means a national administration in this country could perpetuate its power by cutting down the birthrate of its opponents. Regulation is the word. Regulate competition, trusts, and atomic weight; regulate everything that Nature has omitted.

s. c.



Privilege and Equal Suffrage.

A letter in opposition to equal suffrage has been issued by Archbishop Henry Moeller, of Cincinnati, and he has requested priests of his diocese to present his views to their congregations. In this he is within his rights, for he urges that all be given to understand that he is only speaking as an individual, not as a representative of the church. His arguments being the same as have been answered time and again, need not be reviewed. Archbishop Moeller's position in this matter is diametrically opposed to that of Archbishop Quigley of Chicago, who strongly urged Catholic women to vote and thus did much to confute the assertions of anti-suffragists. Archbishop Moeller is consistent, inasmuch as he has openly favored Privilege in all recent contests in Cincinnati, especially where traction interests were involved. His proclivities in that direction naturally make him an opponent of so democratic a move as that for equal suffrage.

s. d.



Why Mayor Lunn Was Obnoxious.

While the Socialist administration of Schenectady, New York, was in power two Socialist assessors endeavored to increase the assessments of tracts of vacant lands. Their two Democratic colleagues opposed their efforts, and succeeded in preventing any increase. Now, with conservatives once more in power, some of this land has been acquired for park purposes and a condemnation commission has awarded the owners many times the assessed valuation. It is easy to understand now why it was so important to Schenectady's "best citizens" to defeat former Mayor Lunn for re-election.

s. d.



A Menace to Business.

Hostility to true business interests is displayed by the Ohio State Board of Commerce and its organ, the Journal of Commerce. The State Board is an organization of privileged interests which thrive by levying tribute on useful business. It

has prepared a taxation amendment to the Constitution to be submitted through initiative petition. The amendment provides for classification of property for purposes of taxation, but cunningly restricts the classification so that while Privilege may get whatever benefits it wants, Useful Business will get as little as possible. That this will be the case is admitted by the Journal of Commerce in the issue of April 15 in the following words, "This amendment makes the singletax impossible." The Journal's statement, while not strictly true, shows further amendment will be necessary to get the singletax. By "making singletax impossible" as far as the amendment can, a severe blow is aimed at every useful industry in the State.



"Making singletax impossible" means making it impossible for Ohio industries to be relieved of unjust and burdensome taxation. It means that every manufacturer, merchant and other business man must continue to pay heavy taxes on the building he occupies. It means continuation in some form or other of taxes on machinery, stock, fixtures and output. It probably means that odious license and occupation taxes must be levied. It means discouragement of useful industry and a premium on idleness. It means subjecting of business men to payment of exorbitant rents and inflated prices for land. It means that they must continue to be objects of extortion on the part of privileged monopolies. "Making singletax impossible" means making it impossible to tax properly the franchises of monopolistic corporations. It means insufficient taxation of the vacant land owner who holds up the manufacturer or merchant in need of additional room for his business. It means limiting the purchasing power of consumers and consequent limitation of business. It means, in short, continuation of the struggle of the average business man to make ends meet and avoid bankruptcy. All this—that holders of franchises and of unused and partially used lands may not be disturbed in drawing of unearned profits. How do the business men of Ohio like it?



It is not only the business men whose interests would be betrayed. Farmers and laborers would suffer even more. The system would be continued under which farmers must list for taxation their crops, live stock and other labor products. Yet one of the objects of announcing that it "makes the singletax impossible" is to fool the farmers. It is based on the belief that farmers are under the absurdly false impression that singletax will in-

crease their burdens when it would, in fact, lighten them. It is thus a demagogic appeal to ignorance, and known to be such by prominent officials of the State Board of Commerce and by the Journal of Commerce. Land values on farms, exclusive of improvements, are very small compared with land values in cities and values of franchises. So, of course, under the singletax the smallest share of taxation will fall on working farmers. Now, Ohio farmers are asked to support a proposed amendment on the ground that it will make a system impossible that would lighten their burdens. Laborers are asked to vote for an amendment that will make impossible a system opening to them more opportunities for employment and increasing the purchasing power of their wages. If the proposed amendment has any merit at all the Journal of Commerce does not mention it. It only points out a very serious objection and tries to palm it off as a recommendation. S. D.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE PREFERENTIAL VOTE IN NEW JERSEY.

Trenton, N. J., April 14.

The New Jersey Legislature, a few days ago, passed an act which has been signed by the Governor and now is a law, providing for the election of Commissioners in all Commission governed cities in the State, by what is substantially the Spokane system of preferential voting. The Commission Government Law of New Jersey before this supplement was passed, provided for the election under the Des Moines system of a double election, the first, called the primary election, being held to select the highest ten from whom five would be chosen at a subsequent election. This law places, at one stroke, all cities in the State which have adopted Commission Government, and all which may hereafter adopt it, under the system of election by preferential voting and is perhaps the most important step that has been made in that direction because of the number of municipalities affected. The cities which have adopted this form of government and come under this act include Jersey City, Trenton, Atlantic City, Bordentown and a number of smaller municipalities in the State.

LINTON SATTERTHWAITE



"Write a short paragraph about the Mayflower compact," said a teacher in a certain high school, "telling for what group of people it was drawn up, why it was drawn up, and giving the main provisions of the compact."

This is one pupil's answer:

"The Mayflower was a ship that the Pilgrims used. It was drawn up for the Pilgrims in 1830. It was drawn up because the Pilgrims could not get along with the people who lived by them. The provisions were roasted corn and wild turkey."—Judge.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, April 21, 1914.

Mexico and the United States.

The flag salute incident has steadily grown in importance until it has assumed the possibility of war. General Huerta at first declined to order the firing of the salute to the American flag at Tampico. A long conference of the Cabinet on the 14th led to President Wilson's ordering the Atlantic and West Indies fleets, as well as those of the Pacific to proceed to Mexico. General Huerta agreed on the 16th to fire the desired salute, on condition that the United States return the salute. This offer was accepted by President Wilson. But on the 17th General Huerta conditioned his offer with the stipulation that the Americans should answer his salute gun for gun, as fired. This was held by President Wilson to be an evasion of the point at issue, and General Huerta was given until 6 o'clock of the 19th to make final answer. General Huerta refused to recede from his position. [See current volume, page 369.]



President Wilson laid the matter before a joint session of Congress on the 20th, delivering in person the following message:

It is my duty to call your attention to a situation which has arisen in our dealings with General Victoriano Huerta at Mexico City, which calls for action, and to ask your advice and co-operation in acting upon it.

On the ninth of April a paymaster of the U. S. S. Dolphin landed at the Iturbide bridge landing at Tampico with a whaleboat and boat's crew, to take off certain supplies needed by his ship, and while engaged in loading the boat was arrested by an officer and squad of men of the army of General Huerta. Neither the paymaster nor any one of the boat's crew was armed. Two of the men were in the boat when the arrest took place, and were obliged to leave it and submit to be taken into custody, notwithstanding the fact that the boat carried, both at her bow and at her stern, the flag of the United States.

The officer who made the arrest was proceeding up one of the streets of the town with his prisoners when met by an officer of higher authority, who ordered him to return to the landing and await orders, and within an hour and a half from the time of the arrest orders were received from the commander of the Huertista forces at Tampico for the release of the paymaster and his men.

The release was followed by apologies from the commander and later by an expression of regret by General Huerta himself. General Huerta urged that martial law obtained at the time at Tampico; that