

ready now as at any time in the past to fight for what they conceive to be the rights of the poorer classes of the people. To them this war means something more than a changing of presidents and office holders. However crude their logic, or brusque their methods, they stand for the oppressed peon. Nor are they likely to lay down their arms so long as there is the slightest doubt regarding the good faith of those holding political power. General Carranza has been as shifty with Villa and Zapata as he has been with the United States, and they, lacking Mr. Wilson's patience, have declared he must go. And go he will.



A marked distinction will be noted between the Mexican war and the war in Europe in its effect upon the people. In Europe great suffering has come upon the poorer classes, among whom many are actually starving to death. The rich, on the contrary, have suffered little, beyond a reduction in income. In Mexico, however, the poor have suffered comparatively little from the war, while the rich have been plundered. One cause for this difference is the fact that the peon was already living at the point of bare subsistence. Any change was sure to bring relief. The rich, however, had been so oppressive that despoiling them seemed the simplest form of justice. The question now seems to be to find a man who will set up an administration in favor of the mass of the people, the peon poor. This cannot be done except at the expense of the beneficiaries of the present system, and they are not going to relinquish their hold until they are compelled to do so. Had the United States or any other country used force to restore order in Mexico, it would have meant nothing less than the restoration of this class to power, with another revolution at the earliest opportunity. As it is, the people have been able to make a new estimate of each other. The privileged class now knows the peons can and will fight, and the peons know their oppressors can be whipped. It may be some time yet before peace and order are finally restored in Mexico; for they cannot come till justice has been established.

S. C.



### Woman's Cause is Marching.

In spite of the preliminary reports of mischief-making correspondents the National American Woman Suffrage Association convention in Nashville, Tennessee, passed off in a quiet and orderly manner that would serve as an example for almost any male convention of like importance. Those timid old ladies of both sexes who fear that politics

will unsex women should bear in mind that the suffrage movement to the mass of the women now actively interested is very new. The women have not yet found themselves. They have all the zeal of the neophyte, but lack the discretion of the disciples. They have not yet mastered the art of being discrete in the presence of reporters; for these degenerate sons—and perhaps daughters—of Anak had rather report one fight than twenty peaceful programs. But in spite of careless talk in the presence of reporters, the wiser heads steered the convention free of rocks and snags, out upon another year's work.



It is not for mere man to congratulate or commiserate the Association upon its choice of officers; but if the movement for equal suffrage makes as rapid headway during the coming year as it did during the past year the members may well congratulate each other. The fight, indeed, is really won; all that remains is for a few old foggy States to write into their statutes what is already in their minds. Every solitary objection that the antis ever had has been met in theory and overcome in practice. It is merely that the mossbacks may conserve their dignity that they delay. They do not like to be hurried—particularly by the women. The great thing now to do, and it will be a difficult feat to accomplish, is for the friends of equal rights to keep their faces straight and refrain from undue merriment while the anties climb down. The world has produced many funny things, but it is doubtful if it ever brought forth anything else quite so funny as the man who seriously claimed the vote for himself and denied it to woman. It is to be hoped that he will not realize all at once what a colossal joke he has been, lest he die with laughter.

S. C.



### The Cause of Crime.

The theory which traces crime to feeble-mindedness, and declares criminals to be mainly morons, does not seem proven by the experience of Judge W. M. Gemmill of Chicago's Municipal Court. He is reported to have said:

They try to tell us that criminals are morons. One of the doctors who is supposed to be famous because he studied at a German university said 85 per cent of the criminals are feeble-minded. Bosh! It isn't true. I've had 30,000 in my court. They're not feeble-minded; they're just like you and me. The difficulty is they haven't moral courage or weren't given the proper education. There is no criminal class. The problem of crime is largely one of environment.

Yet, in the course of the same speech, after

declaring that criminals lacked moral courage or a proper education, the Judge told, to illustrate another point, about a university professor who came to him to see about his son who was in trouble. The Judge seems to have got rid of one fallacy only to fall into another. Probably the principal cause of crime is the fact that too many people cannot refrain from it without either becoming paupers or corpses. If the opportunity were open to all to earn an honest living crime would certainly be considerably reduced, even if it should not be entirely abolished.



Even if a large proportion of criminals should be feeble-minded or ignorant, that does not relieve economic conditions of responsibility for crime. Ignorance and vicious environment are equally the result of economic conditions, as also, to a large extent at least, may be feeble-mindedness. That in the struggle for jobs the feeble-minded should fail is only natural, and, having failed, should be pushed into crime, is also natural. Until all who desire opportunities for work shall be assured of them, crime will continue in spite of all superficial tinkering.

S. D.



### A Big Country.

Statistics given out by the Department of Commerce in its pamphlet "Statistical Record of Progress of the United States, 1800-1914," convey some idea of the material stupendousness of this country. It shows that the best workers in Europe transplanted to the richest country in natural resources, have produced inevitable results. Our population exceeds 100,000,000, and our wealth \$140,000,000,000. In 1850 the population was less than 25,000,000, and the national wealth \$7,000,000,000, which makes an increase in sixty-four years of fourfold in population and twentyfold in wealth. Commerce has grown from \$318,000,000 to \$4,259,000,000. The money in circulation has increased from \$279,000,000 to \$3,419,000,000. Children to the number of 19,000,000 are enrolled in the public schools, with 200,000 students in the colleges, and a total annual expenditure for education of \$500,000,000. Other interesting statistics are given, such as the increase of farms and farm property from \$4,000,000,000 to \$41,000,000,000, and the growth of manufactures from \$1,000,000,000 to \$20,000,000,000. The number of miles of railroad in operation in 1850 was 9,021, as against 258,033 in 1912.



As totals these figures make a splendid showing.

It may be doubted if the world has ever before seen their equal. The general average, too, is good. No other country as large as this can show a per capita wealth of \$1,400. So far as the production of wealth in this country is concerned, we have made a good showing, an exceptionally good showing. But unfortunately we have not the same cause for congratulation in the individual acquirement of wealth. A few have gone so very far above the average of \$1,400 that others are a long way below that amount. The recent report of the Chicago superintendent of the department of social survey, gives some startling data regarding those who fall below the average. Upon a single block were found 1,596 persons living in 137 delapidated houses, three rooms to a family, three to eight persons sleeping in one bedroom. It is scarcely likely that the eight persons sleeping in one small, poorly ventilated room were possessed of \$11,200. Yet, while it is not in the nature of things that each should have his \$1,400, it does lie within the realm of possibilities for any working man or woman to earn enough to obtain better accommodations than appears in the report of the department of social survey.



It is not the part of forward-looking minds to carp at what has been done; but rather to see that future action has a firm foundation in the present. The men and women of the past did according to their light; we must do according to our light. They were no more to blame for the unequal distribution of wealth than they were for not flying; the means was not known. But the law governing the distribution of wealth is now known, and the responsibility rests upon every one who understands it to make it known to his fellows. When society has mastered this law it will be held responsible for its application. This is not optional. Natural economic law, as well as natural physical law, works its will whether or not its victims understand it. And just as gunpowder will destroy the child or fool who applies fire, so does the economic law, when disregarded, oppress the innocent and wreck society. It is good to know the country has accumulated so much wealth, for it proves that we have solved the problem of the production of wealth. We can now give our attention to its distribution.

S. C.



### Automobile Franchises.

When the automobile first came into general use there were some enthusiasts who thought that they could see in the new invention the means of put-