

tled, and properly and fairly settled, or a revolution would occur in America similar to the terrible French Revolution and he is an omnivorous student of that problem. Probably for the first time in the history of the labor movement the universal rule of labor unions forbidding endorsements of political candidates was disregarded when more than a hundred unions in various parts of the State adopted resolutions endorsing Fisher's candidacy; and many of them made appropriations to help in paying his campaign printing and postage bills. This unprecedented action of the labor organizations was a graceful acknowledgment of gratitude to the man who is, more than any other, responsible for the Workmen's compensation measure, which was adopted at the legislative session of 1913, when Fisher had worked hard for its success during two terms of the assembly and had created universal demand for it in many public addresses delivered after the refusal of the assembly of 1911 to adopt it. And he worked without pay and simply because of his conviction of the justice of such a measure, even refusing \$800, which the legislature awarded him to repay his actual expenses during his endeavors to secure its passage.

Fisher is not what politicians call a "good loser;" he is rather a good fighter, like his Scotch ancestors, and like President Wilson, whom he greatly resembles in many respects. He is an extraordinary speaker and convincing, though not an "orator," as his tone is conversational and he rarely even moves a hand. His friends hope great things of him because of his undoubted honesty, ability and desert, which must appeal to the many voters he is to address in the course of his projected tour of the State.

RAOUL W. D'ARCHE.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

FOR TENANTS AND SMALL HOME OWNERS.

New York, October 12.

Not since the Civil War have the workers of this country been in so hard a position as at present. Scores of thousands throughout the country are out of work—other scores are working part time, while many cities, like New York, are threatening to retrench in needed improvements, and so to add to the armies of unemployed.

Prices of food stuffs have risen.

The European War and thrifty purchasing in reasonable amounts by housewives are assigned as causes for high prices. Neither "reason" explains the jump in prices.

The farms east of the Mississippi could raise food for the entire country. The United States could feed the world, if all farms were cultivated to their full productivity.

Production and consumption of both food and manufactured products is limited by taxing producers nearly 2 per cent of the value of their products, in addition to compelling them to pay land speculators enormous profits for opportunity to produce anything. This raises prices to consumers, and naturally limits consumption.

Europe is struggling to overthrow the militarist

system, under which "every laborer carries a soldier on his back."

America is struggling to overthrow the land monopoly system, under which every worker is carrying a land monopolist on his back.

Tenants and small home owners will do well to resolve to enlist to overthrow land monopoly. Nowhere else is it so firmly entrenched and such a menace as in our cities, where it is more deadly than militarism in Europe.

Only one out of every thirteen persons, over ten years of age, in gainful occupations, is a member of organized labor. It is, therefore, necessary for the twelve-thirteenths of the workers of the country to take steps to secure employment at decent wages.

BENJAMIN C. MARSH.



TRIFLING WITH SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

Johnstown, Pa., Oct. 12.

For years Big Business objected to compulsory education, when suddenly this opposition was withdrawn. And there appeared upon the horizon the new cry of vocational education and the continuation schools and "sich like." Why this sudden change of heart? To the thinking this is easy. Where formerly Big Business got the raw recruit at 14 to 16 semi-illegally, and trained him at its expense, under the new dispensation it got him at 14 to 16, legally, and partially or fully trained at the public expense. Here was a brilliant example of how Big Business, with its usual stupidity had overlooked a bet until brilliant but misguided reformers had shown it a way.

Recently a typical American thing occurred in our town, which gave me a clue to a new phase of Big Business' methods. I may be in error as to this, but think not. There are always good people who start things, and then, when it proves burdensome as to time or money, proceed to unload it onto the tax-paying public. This town was no exception. It started an amateur recreation commission, which, aided by a newspaper, really did some good work. It started playgrounds, baseball, etc. But the playgrounds deteriorated into loafing places, and the baseball into rowdiness, and it was time to dump them. First school athletic leagues were started and the board induced to accept it. Now this commission desires the school board to take over all its activities. Aided by a subservient superintendent, who partly perverted county aid to teachers' institute funds, a Mr. Curtis devoted the entire week of the institute to boost school playgrounds, their needs and uses. After the botch the amateur commission had made of affairs I must confess I was provoked, and expressed my displeasure to the principal of the high school, who had recently returned from the St. Paul meeting of the National Educational Association. He is a broad-minded man and said a gentleman at that meeting had told him that the public playground movement was on a par with the "swat-the-fly" campaign. This gave me an idea. I looked it up and cogitated thereon. Who is back of this movement? Largely the Russell Sage Foundation, aided also by the Carnegie and Rockefeller funds. Is history repeating itself?

Victor Gardhausen in his "Augustus und Seine

Zeit," quoted in Volume 6 of the "Historian's History of the World," under the subtitle of "Panem et Circenses" (Food and Games), says in his opening paragraph:

"The sustenance of Rome, with which the emperors charged themselves, may be regarded in the light of compensation for the political rights of which the imperial government robbed the Romans."

Having robbed the people of land and rights, they gave them corn for their bellies and brutal games to lull their minds.

Are the modern emperors—the exponents of Big Business—trying to give them playgrounds in school yards, at everyone's expense, for the land they have insidiously robbed them?

I cannot feel that it is one of the many panaceas that Big Business is trying to apply to a diseased public, of which "patriotic(?) wars," "Kultur Kampf," "Rockefeller investigation," et al., are kindred.

FRANCIS SCHILL, JR.

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, October 20, 1914.

The European War.

The eleventh week of the war passed with general activities upon all sides, but with no decisive action anywhere. In Eastern Europe the Russians and Germans are preparing for a great battle near Warsaw, and in Western Europe the Germans and Allies have fought to hold the line extending through Northern France and Southeastern Belgium. The German government has notified the government of the Netherlands that it would observe the treaty relations regarding the use of the River Scheldt which leads up to Antwerp, but the mouth of which is in Dutch territory. [See current volume, page 994.]

The Campaign in Western Europe.

Immediately following the fall of Antwerp great activity was manifested in Belgium. The Germans, apparently intent upon capturing the Channel ports, Ostend, Dunkirk and Calais, as well as driving the allies out of Belgium, hurried the troops that were relieved by the capture of Antwerp southward along the West coast. Bruges was occupied on the 14th and Ostend on the 15th. Both places were taken without resistance. The Germans were not, however, permitted to reach Dunkirk. An engagement by the Belgians, aided by the guns of the British navy, repulsed the Germans at Nieuport, on the coast, midway between Ostend and Dunkirk, on the 19th. Heavy fighting occurred also at Dixunde and Rouler. The line of battle now extends to the sea on the Belgian coast

south of Ostend. From the extreme West in Belgium to Lille in France. The line is still mobile, and has been shifted backward and forward by the contending armies. From Lille southward to the junction of the Oise and Aisne Rivers the changes in spite of much fighting have been unimportant. Vigorous attempts have been made by both the French and the Allies along the east and west line to advance but without material change in positions.

Belgium.

King Albert remains in Belgium at the head of his army, which is doing effective campaigning. After joining the Allies on its retreat from Antwerp, it engaged in the battle of Nieuport to stop the advance of the Germans. The cabinet officers and the foreign legations have removed from Ostend to Havre. A proclamation was issued in Ostend on the 14th reciting:

Citizens: For about two and a half months the Belgian soldiers have been defending, foot by foot, at the price of heroic efforts the fate of their country. The enemy certainly expected to annihilate our army in Antwerp; but a retreat in which the order and dignity have been irreproachable has successfully foiled this hope, and has assured us the conservation of military forces which will continue to fight without respite for this most just and noble cause. . . . In order not to serve the plans of the invaders, it is important that the Belgian government should temporarily establish its seat in a place from which it may, in contact with our army on one side and with France and England on the other, continue to exercise and to assure the continuance of the national sovereignty. For this reason the government is leaving Ostend today, with a grateful remembrance of the welcome which this city has given it.

The government temporarily will be established at Havre, where the noble friendship of the government of the French Republic has offered our government, with the fullness of its sovereign rights, the entire exercise of its authority and also of its duties.

Citizens, this momentary ordeal, which our patriotism will accept, will have, we are sure, its prompt revenge. The Belgian administration will continue to operate in full measure as far as the local circumstances will permit. The king and the government depend upon your good judgment, on your patriotism. On your part you may count upon our entire self-devotion, upon the gallantry of our army and upon the support of the Allies to hasten the hour of mutual deliverance.

Our beloved country, so odiously betrayed and so odiously treated by one of the powers who had solemnly promised to guarantee her neutrality, has excited a growing admiration in the whole world. Thanks to the union, the courage and the sagacity of all her children, she will remain worthy of this admiration which sustains her today. Tomorrow she will emerge from her trials greater and more beautiful, having suffered for justice and for the honor of civilization.