

Prince Colonna and other gentlemen—some of whom find it necessary to live on a great scale in Rome and other places—declined without hesitation any concession, and the result was that the peasants marched before the palaces or residences of the gentry with threatening cries. They marched in this way before the residence of two of the richest men in Paliano, the brothers Tucci. These gentlemen are of a somewhat nervous disposition, it seems, for as the despised mob roared and shouted, each of the brothers seized a gun and began a rapid fire on the crowd, which in a few minutes brought down about thirty persons. A young girl was shot through the head and a number of peasants severely wounded. At this stage the police intervened, arrested the gentlemen who were so ready with their guns, and with no little difficulty preserved them from lynch justice.

And with this the revolt in Paliano is over for the present, and the tax will probably continue. It is characteristic of the grade of civilization of the little town, that the beaten populace revenged themselves on the Tucci brothers by destroying in the course of the night, their family burying place.

As one can see down there, though so near Rome, much of the work of civilization is yet to do. And many, very many decades will pass before the various Palianos of South Italy rise from the year 1200 to the year 1914.



## SOME FRIENDS OF OURS.

### No. 5. The Woman Who Held Mortgages.

#### Part Two.

#### For The Public.

Angevine Miller settled down in North Chowchilla, and her letters to the wise old lawyer tell the story better than any synopsis. Here are six extracts, placed in order of dates, ranging over a period of about six months:

"This problem is a hard one. I have become at home in the Finch family; I help Sabra Finch with the dresses and go to camp meetings with the bunch; she calls me Angevine and I call her Sabra; she has told me all about the mortgage."

"Amos Finch owns 460 acres of rough land, a few poor cattle, shabby improvements. There is no local market for products. His knowledge is defective; he works tremendously, but is past his prime and is discouraged. The five children are well brought up. We must give them a chance."

"I have read the books on the land question, and on agriculture you sent me. Hire the most practical and the best educated young expert you can find. Give him a gun and a good outfit, including horse and buggy. Let him spend a month or three

months up here, shooting, fishing and photographing. Let him quietly size up the possibilities of these farms and make a full report to me—Amos Finch's farm first."

"Mr. Jaynes, the expert, sure knows his business. He says that we can safely lend more money to Amos Finch, and put his farm into productive shape in five years. But he says that we must control the entire situation, must direct his expenditures and his work, must finally sell off a large portion of the land to new and actual users. He believes that Finch's land can be made to pay the mortgage of \$2,000, also \$2,000 more, and in time can be subdivided into five places, according to the lay of the land, one of which the Finch family will continue to hold. He says 'dairying, apples and walnuts'; but he adds that I can't possibly persuade Mr. Finch to give us control. Perhaps he is mistaken!"

"Now you write Mr. and Mrs. Finch that the late Zoeth Raeburn was a good man, not a mean one, and that he left a large sum to be lent by you for 'improvements' in order to enable all of his debtors to get even again. Explain about mortgages, chattel mortgages and deeds of trust. Ask them to take a month and think up ten people living in this region from whom you can select three to whom they shall deed everything in trust with full power to subdivide and sell at any time, to direct improvements, and to arrange for a monthly allowance for the family as well as full protection of their equity. I'll see that Sabra and Amos Finch name ten men and women from whom we can easily pick out three corking good people for the game."

"Send the papers. All arranged. The names of the three trustees are on an enclosed slip. This deal shows us how to handle a lot of others. Keep me supplied with books and papers on money, taxes, interest, land, how to educate farmers and all the rest that I must know about. I feel about twenty years old; part of it is my study, part is Sabra Finch. She is both good and far-sighted. She knows things, although she never had but four months in school—as her letters show; she is the wisest person I ever knew."

CHARLES HOWARD SHINN.



## NEW SCHOOLS AND TRUE DEMOCRATS.

### II. Culture and Agriculture.

Lincoln Steffens, in *Harper's Weekly* of January 10.

My plea is for culture in colleges, and especially in the agricultural colleges. Any college has a clue to the way to it. Interest in the beginning—any interest. . . . The agricultural

schools have the first requirement for culture. They have students who want to learn. The average student at a "regular" college is one of the funniest things on earth. He has no interest in learning; he is hardly willing to be taught. . . . I will recall that one can get culture by starting with any subject and following it through all its relations to life: languages, ancient or modern; history; physics; art or music—anything. And so students can get culture from agriculture or engineering.

But there's a chance to use these two fields for a peculiarly rich and modern culture. Take engineering first. Professor Johnson of Harvard gives his students of engineering the culture of his subject by showing them that what they learn of physical forces is probably true of social and political forces. He has written a pamphlet on "Political Engineering," and it is sound. And his students see it. They are interested in political and social questions because they see, what we all need to see today, that it is forces, not men, that we are up against. The colleges are turning out thousands of men every year who carry into politics and life the old, dead cultural notion that bad men make bad government and that good men would make government good. A cultural school of engineering, which would do what Professor Johnson does, would apply its knowledge not only to professional use, but to the practical use of the politician, reformer and sociologist; it would interest its students in the search for the unmoral and impersonal cause of all our evils: political, industrial and social. And if that general, human interest were fed and cultivated by a wise faculty, such students could be led on to want to know anything; just what the old Roman muck-rakers said in the original Latin; just why and when art comes and why it doesn't; and just what the matter is today with poetry.

And as for the agricultural schools, they can reach out in the same way. All they have to do is to teach that all they are learning about pigs and oats is true of men. They know, too, what the old moral culturist doesn't know: that if you want a good crop, you must select the seed and prepare the soil. That is true of men. Ignorance and disregard of that knowledge are causes of the slums of cities. . . . All I want to suggest is, that if faculties of our agricultural schools would take the utilitarian interest of their students in the course of agriculture and would show them the human, social significance of all they are learning, they could not only give them a very modern and a sadly needed culture, but they could easily incite them to an interest in life which would carry them through any of the subjects known to the old culture of the old schools. What they need, really, is not only this hint, but some of the conceit of our great universities; the proud

sense that they indeed have something fine and enlightening and humane—as they have.

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## BOOKS

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### BLOCKING LEGISLATION.

*Story of the California Legislature of 1913.* By Franklin Hichborn. Published by the James H. Barry Co., 1122 Mission St., San Francisco. Price, \$1.50.

Rudyard Kipling's "Jungle Book" is a series of good stories mined out of an imagination full of rich ore. Franklin Hichborn's story of the California Legislature of 1913—like his books on the Legislatures of 1909 and 1911—is a series of "Jungle Book" stories taken from life, without a line of fiction. As is well known to every man who has ever reported a State legislature, a legislative session is a real jungle; and an Indian or African jungle has nothing on it in the way of a zoological collection. From ape to zebra it is complete, and replete with everything covered with feathers, fur or scales.

"A Guide to Legislative Inefficiency" might have been the title of Hichborn's book. Then, again, if a member of a legislature, or a candidate for the legislature wishes to know the ropes and to be efficient, he may take the book as a "Guide to Legislative Efficiency." It depends on how one looks at it. The California Legislature of 1913 was not inefficient because it was "bad," but because of circumstances over which it had no control. The People can control those circumstances.

By knowing the facts before he meets them, the individual legislator may make himself efficient; but individual efficiency doesn't mean good team work; and first-class team work is almost impossible under present conditions.

The 1909 Legislature of California was the last of the machine-controlled legislatures of this State. Hichborn wrote a book about it, and that book had something to do with the political revolution in California in 1910, which gave the State a legislature that did splendid work in the way of clearing away some of the obstructions to constructive work. Then it was up to the people to elect a legislature that would do some really constructive work. The People did their part in that election, but there was something that was not on the ballot.

The most efficient corn-sheller will soon lose its efficiency if a mischievous or malicious person puts a stone into the hopper. Under present conditions, the most efficient body of legislators will fail to be efficient if Special Privilege feeds stones into the hopper. By hard work the California Legislature of 1913 did some things that should have been done; but no American legislature is going