

cities, where the Indians are wage-slaves, not peons, there are some walks set aside for the whites (Spanish and Americans) and the other walks for the Indians. The Indians get the best of it, but feel just as resentful as if the whites took the best of it. The Indians are given the cool, shady inside walks, and the whites get only a glaring cement walk around the edge; but because it is a privilege, every one who treads the cement feels proud.

There are even two distinct codes of morals—one for the Indians and one for the whites.

The Americans in Mexico form a large class. The monopolists who own so much there do not live there; but in this country. However, there are thousands on thousands of Americans living in Mexico. Certain trades are tacitly given over to them. For instance, it is quietly understood that they are to be used as railway trainmen, mine drillers, etc. They have lived there for generations, some of them. There are their homes and places, and they cannot go away. Their children are born there. Many intermarry with the Spanish. But whether they do or do not intermarry with the Spanish, they become that peculiar product, the "Mexican American." They speak English among themselves, but intersperse the Spanish words they all know, and they have many ways peculiar to them all, yet not shared by other residents of Mexico. Their strangest trait is the maintenance of the fiction that they are Americans, fully entitled to protection. Even in the act of taking part in the politics of the country where they have spent their lives, they hypnotize themselves into the belief that they are patriotic only toward the United States. Individually, the Americans are popular in Mexico. As the losers, the Mexicans do not readily forget the war of 1846. But each American is generally liked, because he is not stingy. He is vastly more popular with the Indians than with the Spanish.

Contrary to belief, my impression is that Mexicans—and especially the Indians—are not treacherous, not cruel, not murderous, and not lazy. To get away from the landlords these Indians will go into places where the winter frost only ends about June 30 and begins again by September 30, with only short tropical days in the meantime, where, owing to the elevation, the summer temperature never rises above 60 degrees in the sunshine—in other words, plateaus where it is terrific work to bring a crop to maturity. In Sinaloa, where the native Indians own most of the land (which is held in common) you will always find them hard at work. I have lived with them as well as the hacendados, and they are the most peaceful people imaginable. But the half-breed Spaniard is very apt to be a bad character. He takes to all kinds of work requiring horsemanship, makes a good foreman, is a born leader of Indians, is generally not scrupulous, and, in fact, Villa, Huerta, and Orozco are of this class, and I presume Zapata is also. Carranza and the Maderos are Spanish. The Rurales are always half-breeds. Most of the people are, for that matter, but in most of them the Indian predominates.

B. F. BUTTERFIELD.



"You can arrest me but you can't arrest my contempt."—The Masses.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

London, July 17.

We had a considerable victory on Monday last as the House of Lords by a unanimous vote inserted a clause in a Bill promoted by the Government for amending the Home Rule Bill, the effect of which is to apply proportional representation to the whole of the Irish House of Commons instead of as at present to 31 out of 164 seats. It is not certain, however, that this will pass as the Amending Bill—its proper title is the Government of Ireland (Amendment) Bill—contains other measures on which the Conservative majority in the Lords and the Ministerial majority in the Commons are in conflict, and the whole Bill may be sacrificed. The debate in the Lords, however, showed the movement of opinion in favor of proportional representation, and the amendment received the support of some very distinguished peers, including the ex-Lord Chancellor, Earl Loreburn, an ex-chancellor of the Exchequer, Viscount St. Aldwyn, and an ex-Ambassador, Viscount Bryce, in addition to Lord Courtney and a number of peers representing the Irish interests which the amendment was designed to safeguard.

JOHN H. HUMPHREYS,

Secretary, Proportional Representation Society (England).

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

ANOTHER ARGUMENT FOR JUDICIAL RECALL.

Boston, Mass., July 20.

A recent decision made by Judge Crain of the New York Court of General Sessions convicting Upton Sinclair for his vagaries before No. 26 Broadway, because "no citizen may rebuke another citizen by subjecting him to ridicule or insult," seems to invite wider comment than its subject is enabled to make in the organ of his party. Mr. Sinclair seems to be justified in saying: "This decision is inconceivable. If it were upheld, it would mean the end of free speech, and, indeed, of public life. . . . Take public parades and mass meetings, called to protest against the conduct of any citizen, for instance, against the conduct of Murphy, an entirely unofficial person—in deposing the governor of the State. To do any public thing to 'rebuke' Mr. Murphy 'by subjecting him to ridicule or insult' would be disorderly conduct; and it would not be necessary that Mr. Murphy should be there, or should make a complaint; the police would at once arrest anyone who uttered a word—since uttering a word is 'doing'—and take him to the nearest police station.

"Or, take cartooning: obviously, after that decision, no newspaper dare publish a cartoon tomorrow morning. If any of them do, I shall at once call the attention of the nearest police captain to the offense, and the editors and publishers will at once be taken to jail. Drawing, printing and selling a cartoon are a form of 'doing'; and they are necessarily public; and their main purpose is generally to 'rebuke a citizen by subjecting him to ridicule

or insult.' In Harper's Weekly of four or five weeks ago, appears a terrific cartoon, representing John D. Rockefeller as a hideous old creature, crouching and watching through a spy-glass the smoking ruins of Colorado; and there is the caption: 'Hell from beneath is moved to meet thee at thy coming.' Now, can any sane man hold that this cartoon does not publicly rebuke a citizen by holding him up to ridicule or insult? And note that it makes not the least difference whether what the cartoon alleges be true; it makes no difference that Rockefeller has admitted under oath his full responsibility for an approval of the hideous crimes in Colorado. 'It is likewise beside the point whether the thing he saw to reprobate was or was not reprehensible!' Nor will the outraged law wait till Mr. Rockefeller makes complaint; it will not leave him to sue for libel, but will send at once to the offices of Harper's Weekly—now that the law has been made clear—and arrest Mr. Hapgood for 'using threatening, abusive and insulting behavior.'

A warning against the danger suggested by Mr. Sinclair's criticism of such judicial restrictions of freedom has recently been given by an author who must demand a respectful hearing. In a philosophic discussion of "The Theory of Social Evolution" that learned and clear sighted publicist Brooks Adams, recalls the fact that social convulsions seem to have been inevitable in the English-speaking race, when "the envelope grew too tight for the growing organism." Mr. Adams, in this connection, asserts that in the United States: "The Bench has always had an avowed partisan bias," and that though the capitalistic class, always "very weak in those generalizing powers which are necessary for its safety," thinks itself secure as it "leans on the Courts" while favorably inclined, there is great danger of a cataclysmic disaster when the social equilibrium shifts and the political court becomes "the most formidable of all engines for the destruction of its creators."

ERVING WINSLOW.



DEBT AS SECURITY FOR LOANS.

Pittsburgh, Pa., July 19.

I want the government to find out how much I owe, what my debts are: and then I want the government to help me get a long time loan of about sixty per cent of my total indebtedness, at a low rate of interest and take by debts as security. That's the substance of nearly all proposed rural credit schemes and if the government can do it for the farmer it can do it for me. I am as good as a farmer any day.

Land may be a social asset, but to the individual holder of title it is a liability for annual dues to the full value of the privilege of exclusive possession.

It is true we have permitted the possession to become an individual asset, but that is the very cause of our social ailment, and, to make land loans easier through proposed rural credit schemes is to aggravate the disease, not to effect a cure.

Houses, cattle and other labor products are proper security for loans, for these things are assets,

but land is not a proper security for loans; in fact, it is no security at all, for it is a liability. We have seen the bad effect of basing a national currency, even nominally, on a public debt, but this scheme of facilitating borrowing on land at low interest beats the currency scheme, for it proposes blandly to help the farmer to borrow money on his debts. And that's what I want, too. I have lots of debts and nothing else to borrow on. Anyhow, I am as good as the farmer.

H. W. NOREN.



LAND VALUE TAX IN NEW ZEALAND.

San Francisco, July 29.

In New Zealand the tax on unimproved land values has been in operation for more than thirty years. For a large share of this time a law has been in force under which it is provided that any city or county may hold an election and on a majority vote may place the local rates on the unimproved land values only.

This tax has grown so popular that in the last year, out of twenty-four such local elections held, twenty-two of them voted, by very large majorities, for the adoption of the tax.

The dozen largest cities in the Dominion, including the capital city of the nation, have adopted the local tax, or rating, as it is called. In no case has it been repealed after it has once been adopted.

WALTER THOMAS MILLS.



SOCIAL INJUSTICE INJURIOUS TO THE RICH.

Charlottesville, Va., June 29.

There is a corollary to the fact that low wages for women is the cause of prostitution, and that poverty is a cause of racial degeneration. Too much money (privilege) in one class is fully as baneful as too little in the other. This point has not been brought out in any of the numerous papers I have seen on the subject of the minimum wage. The corollary helps to prove the theorem. J. W. Bengough's epigram fits in here: "Land monopoly is the concealed armor of privilege that gives wealth to idleness, poverty to the worker, and spiritual death to both."

EDMOND FONTAINE.

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, August 4, 1914.

War in Europe.

Diplomatic action among the nations of Europe followed swiftly the Austrian declaration of war with Servia on the 28th. While the armies of