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"First the blade, then the ear,  then the full grain in the ear"

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EDITORIALS

Equality

It is difficult for the average person in the United States today to form an accurate conception of the status of woman in the country in the days when the movement that has now culminated in the granting of full suffrage to women was in its incipency. The conventionalities of that day and generation had woman in bondage. Countless lines of activity and behavior that were properly open to men were, by common consent and usage, closed and barred and double-locked to woman. Constraint and repression were woman's portion. And even in a country which officially proclaimed its freedom and the freedom of its individual citizens, the notion of "woman's rights" generally raised a laugh. From that day to this there has been gradual but continuous progress. One might almost say that the measure of freedom gained could be fairly measured by the difference of dress of the up-to-date woman of today and that of the woman of the days of Godey's Ladies' Book. If the prevailing types of dress of today are venturesome and daring, they are, after all, only the typification of the distance over which women have advanced in the direction of liberty from those days when dress was more expressive of conservatism and self-repression.

But the movement for the enfranchisement of woman did not begin with an effort to secure the right to vote. The women who are now referred to as the pioneers of woman's suffrage in the United States definitely sought the voting right only after it had become clear to them that other, and perhaps more ordinary, rights would be denied them so long as they were without the right to take part in elections. The author of this very Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, for which ratification now appears to have been completed by the vote of Tennessee, devoted her public activities to the temperance cause for a considerable time before she reached the conviction that, as a woman, she would have little power to change existing conditions until she was also a voter. Years before she set herself to urge the suffrage right for women, she was impressed with the injustice of woman's economic position. As a woman teacher, on meager pay, her experience of thirteen years opened her eyes to the fact that there was everywhere a great inequality of wages for women and men. She saw men of very indifferent qualifications, both of education and morals, receiving more than three times her own salary. She saw that, even when women could do equivalent or better work than men, they were obliged to content themselves with inferior pay. She saw that the teacher's profession was not generally considered as being so honorable and influential as that of the minister, the lawyer and the doctor, and she saw also that this was so, at least in part, because society conceded that women could properly serve as teachers but not generally in the other professions. When she came to see that the ballot was the key to an equal status for women with men, she threw herself into the movement to gain suffrage. With tongue and pen she lent her aid. She was the forerunner of the "militants" in her early test of the right of women to cast the ballot, whereby she got herself arrested and convicted, though she was never jailed. And in 1875 she drafted the Amendment which has just been ratified, and secured its introduction in Congress in 1878.

That Amendment has been before the country longer than any other successful Amendment to the Constitution. Introduced as the Sixteenth, it was forced to yield priority to others until it became successively the Seventeenth, Eighteenth and, at last, the Nineteenth. It has been before every session of Congress since its initial appearance, yet with all this persistency on the part of its proponents, for many years its negation was decreed without debate on the floor of Congress. Of course the long delay has had one grand effect. That is, education. Women everywhere have been educated by this great movement to gain the suffrage right. They have learned to do by doing. And the education resulting from their effort has accrued not to themselves alone. It has likewise left its trace upon the men. All sorts and conditions of people have been lifted to better conceptions of women and men and their mutual relationships by the very attenuation of women's struggle for the right to vote. How large the benefit would have been if woman had been accorded the vote at the outset, no one can now say. But that this victory in the United States, achieved now in the fullness of time, brings with it a fuller and richer promise by reason of its long delay in coming, seems beyond question.

For suffrage is not an end. It is a means. Women all over the world, as well as in the United States, have been organized to win the ballot. But wherever the women have been accorded the franchise right, they have speedily undertaken to go forward with new purposes into new efforts, merely on the basis of the new power which the ballot has represented for them. It has been so in the various states in which the voting privilege has been conceded in advance of the national concession. It will be so, nationally. There is hope and promise for the nation in the general recognition of this right for the women who help make up its citizenship. Obviously the forces of reaction have done their best to prevent the realization of this hope. But the forward-looking elements in the country can only welcome the advent of women at the polls. Wherever moral reform is needed, the women may be counted upon to work for it. And just as the ballot was first sought for economic rather than political reasons, so the effect of the ballot in the hands of the women of the United States bids fair to be not political but economic.

Prohibition Movement in Australia

THE next few months will see several momentous decisions taken in Australia in regard to the liquor question. Thus, in the near future, state polls are to be held in Queensland and New South Wales, whilst local option polls will be held in Victoria and Tasmania. One of the most important trials of strength will undoubtedly be that which is to take place in Victoria. Victoria is the second most populous state in the Commonwealth, and the Victorian branch of the Anti-Liquor League is entering upon the struggle with a vigor which is full of promise. It recognizes the value of the wide view. Local option in Victoria, exercised to the full in favor of the suppression of the liquor traffic, would be a great achievement. But a Victoria freed from liquor because prohibition was made nation-wide would be a greater. The Victorian Anti-Liquor League is, therefore, engaging in the struggle in Victoria with "Make Australia the First Dry Continent" as its motto.

A study of the situation in regard to the drink traffic in the various states would certainly seem to lead to the view that the realization of this ideal is nearer than might be supposed. In many ways, Australia is the land of the unexpected. Her curiously isolated position in the Southern Pacific has resulted very often in a refreshing independence as to the method of tackling great questions. Speaking generally, Australia is far less concerned with the carrying out of a political theory than she is with settling a question along lines which seem, at the time, best, quite regardless of how the theoretical politician might be inclined to classify her methods. Thus, whilst no state in the Commonwealth has formally embraced socialism, there is no state in the Commonwealth which has not some most socialistic legislation on its statute book.

This independence of thought is particularly noticeable in regard to the liquor question. Some months ago, for instance, the New South Wales Trades and Labor Council, incensed at the attitude of the Brewers Association, had before it a motion to the effect that, in view of the attitude of the association, and "after considering the misery and degradation caused by the liquor trade," the council pledged itself "to use every means in its power to assist in the elimination of the industry from the social system." Then, but a few weeks ago, at Port Pirie, the great mining center, in South Australia, the miners instituted what they called a "beer strike" as a protest against the increased cost of beer. They insisted that beer should be sold at the old price, and pledged themselves not to drink any beer until such time as the reduction was effected. The strike continued for a fortnight without anything happening, and then the strike committee issued a statement to the effect that inasmuch as the workers had gone without liquor for so long, the committee considered that they could, in all probability, manage to do without it altogether. Accordingly it proceeded, at once, to organize a prohibition campaign.

Indeed the chief strength of the anti-liquor movement in Australia is apparently to be found in the ranks of Labor, the only unsatisfactory phase of this aspect of the question being that, for the moment, there is a tendency with Labor to regard state ownership as a necessary step to complete prohibition. The speciousness of this argument has been exposed again and again as simply a device of the liquor interests to entrench themselves more securely than ever before, and prohibition workers in Australia would be well advised to give it their special attention in the present campaign.

Regulating Rents by Commission

SEVERAL months ago, it seems, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted a law, applicable by its terms only to Milwaukee County, giving authority to a rent bureau, directed by the Railroad Commission of the State, to determine, upon application, the fair rental value of tenement and apartment houses and to fix, by order, the return which owners of such property were entitled to receive. A recent news dispatch from Milwaukee was to the effect that the commission already had reduced rentals on a number of buildings, but that because of an order compelling the owners of an apartment to accept a \$5 advance from a previous monthly charge of \$30, instead of a \$20 advance demanded, an appeal would be taken to the courts for the purpose of testing the constitutionality of the law. It is but a few years, comparatively, since similar tests were being made, in the courts, of the constitutionality of state and federal enactments creating commissions to determine and to regulate the rates to be charged by common carriers and other public service utilities. Before such regulation was attempted, and before it was recognized that it was a legitimate function of national and state governments to control and to regulate public utilities generally, the tendency of corporations and individuals offering to serve the public in this respect was, quite frequently, to charge, as the saying used to be, "whatever the traffic would bear." This was true of railroad and express companies, sleeping car companies, telegraph companies, electric light and power companies, gas companies, and street-car companies. In the far west, where individuals and corporations had succeeded in monopolizing water supplies necessary for the irrigation of arid lands, it was not uncommon, before the days of state regulation, for these monopolists to exact exorbitant water rentals from contiguous landowners.

The theory of these national and state regulatory measures clearly was that those who sought to control or to operate a public utility, or to deal in those necessary commodities which the public was compelled to use or to purchase, should not, through an unjust monopoly, be permitted to exact unfair or excessive prices. Those laws were attacked, as the Wisconsin rent regulation law is being attacked, upon the ground of their alleged unconstitutionality. Those who had obtained concessions, either through the granting of valuable franchises or through the acquisition, by purchase or inheritance, of those utilities upon which the public was forced to depend, quite naturally contended, as Milwaukee landlords no doubt are now claiming, that any legislation designed

to regulate or to fix the charge which they see fit to make is an unwarranted interference with their vested rights. They forget, perhaps, when they see fit to advance rentals 50 per cent or 100 per cent, arbitrarily, simply because they believe the "traffic" will bear it, that they are, as the theory of the Wisconsin law appears to be, dealing in a public utility, a commodity, as it were, as logically subject to legislative control as are those commodities of service offered by railroads, express companies, power companies, irrigation companies, and street car, gas, and electric light companies. But the courts of the nation have unanimously upheld the theory of reasonable regulation. The long struggle to establish the system of commission control, which has made necessary the devising of equitable and just bases of physical valuation, hazard, replacement costs, public necessity, and the consideration of almost numberless class and individual problems, seems now to have been won. The free-for-all scramble for advantage, the disastrous system of rate-cutting and rebates, and many other abuses of an unregulated system of public service, have all, or nearly all, been done away with, to the advantage of the utilities themselves as well as the public.

The Wisconsin law no doubt is based upon the theory that all tenement and apartment house property, as well as office buildings, and perhaps loft space and small manufacturing plants, should be placed under the control of state or municipal commissions vested with power, upon application, to fix the annual or monthly rental charges. In the larger cities of the United States, at least, the housing problem has come, in recent years, to be about the most serious problem with which the family has to contend. Rents have been advanced arbitrarily, in many cities, to a figure almost prohibitive, and in most instances with little more than ineffective protest by tenants' organizations or boards without authority to enforce their reasonable demands. Many of these advances, it is admitted, are entirely out of proportion to increased fixed charges upon the property rented. They have been made, in many cases, by syndicates of speculators which have, on option or otherwise, purchased the equity in large apartment buildings or rows of tenements, and which seek to re-transfer their holdings upon the basis of the property's increased earning power.

The utilities with which these speculators and other alleged profiteering owners are juggling are as essential and necessary as those with which properly designated public service agencies have to do. It might be claimed that the public has an interest, intangible though it may be, in the very property over which private control is now being exercised. This intangible interest is one which no individual, as a part of the public, would be permitted to foreclose, any more than an individual would be permitted to compel the setting apart of his undivided interest in municipal waterworks or a municipal lighting plant. But it may be successfully contended, perhaps, that the public has an interest which should be protected against the greed of speculators, or even actual owners, who seek, in times like the present, to profit unfairly at the expense of those who are compelled to deal with them.

The Tower

ANYONE who essays to touch lightly on such a venerable subject as the Tower, by which, of course, is meant the Tower of London, should safeguard himself by making his position perfectly clear at the outset. He should not for a moment allow it to be thought that he was of opinion the Tower could be adequately dealt with within the compass of a short article; that a subject which has engaged the attention of many great writers, historians, and antiquarians could really be dismissed in few words; that the Lion Gate and the Traitors Gate, the White Tower, the Byward Tower, the Bell Tower, the Chapel of St. John, the State Apartments, the Beefeaters, the Moat, and a hundred and one other things contained within the thirteen acres over which the Tower spreads itself could be adequately considered, save at great length and much leisure. The fact of the matter is, of course, that any brief mention of the Tower must take its history for granted; for, indeed, it covers the whole story of England, almost, some will have it, from the very earliest days when history first definitely begins to emerge out of tradition and myth. They even go so far, these people, as to see the great Julius Caesar himself directing the construction of a stronghold where the Tower now stands. Most people, however, content themselves with the Conqueror. And certainly, then and thereafter, there is not a doubt of it. There is no doubt, for instance, that the Conqueror built the great central keep or White Tower "for the purpose of protecting," and, incidentally, overawing the City, and there is no doubt that the Red King, his son, built the great inner wall with its thirteen towers. And so it goes on. A fortress, a palace, and a prison, kings have been crowned from it and have abdicated within its walls, and have been glad at times to seek the protection of its battlements; whilst great men and great women, all through the centuries, have learned within the Tower the bitterness of putting their trust in princes.

Now all this being so, it is not to be wondered at that the Londoner, always jealous in guarding ancient traditions and quite intolerant of their abolition, should find a special satisfaction in observing that nowhere, perhaps, is immemorial custom and ceremonial more carefully observed than in and around the Tower. It is a satisfaction to him, as he enters the Armory, say, to encounter a magnificent specimen of "His Majesty's Royal Body-guard of Yeoman of the Guard," otherwise a Beefeater, and to assure himself that the style of this magnificent person's uniform "has remained unchanged since the institution of the corps by Henry VII, shortly after the battle of Bosworth," as the guide books have it.

And so when Lord Methuen was installed, the other day, in the office of "Governor and Constable of the Royal Palace and fortress of the Tower," it must have been a satisfaction to the Londoner to learn how the Lord Chamberlain, wearing Privy Councillor's uniform, took up his position on Tower Green in a circle formed by the Yeoman Warders, with Lord Methuen facing him; how the Lord Chamberlain carried a velvet cushion upon which were deposited the keys of the Tower; how His

Majesty's Coroner of the Tower, standing beside the Lord Chamberlain, read the King's warrant appointing Lord Methuen to his high office; how Lord Methuen then took charge of the keys; how the Grenadier Guards saluted the King's Keys; how the chief warder cried: "God preserve King George"; and how the Yeoman Warders responded with a fervent "Amen," as the Lord Chamberlain and his company turned to enter the King's House, and the ceremony came to an end "exactly as it used to be carried out as far back as the Middle Ages."

Editorial Notes

FRANCISCO VILLA, erstwhile Mexican bandit chief, has apparently "feathered his nest" for the future, demanding several guarantees of safety and provisions for his well-being in return for his giving up marauding. Now Governor Cantu of Lower California has agreed to surrender his position as executive in favor of the appointee of the de facto government, but he makes this surrender conditional upon his continuing to hold the rank of colonel in the army, and going unpunished for the revolt he recently led. Continued agreement to such settlements must, it would seem, have the effect of alluring each Mexican who can command a few men to a fling at banditism before he settles down to a life of good citizenship.

A CORRESPONDENT of an American monthly, writing from Madrid, asks whether there is any way of making a room absolutely sound-proof. Evidently he is a "deserving case," for, in his apartment block he says there are "six pianos, one pianola, one phonograph, twenty children," many dogs, dancing and singing lessons upstairs, a squawking parrot, a screeching bird of paradise, with carpet-beating and street hawkers continual throughout the morning. It is doubtful whether the average American city-dweller can give anything more comforting than the sympathy of one whose experience is very similar. If the system of monumental apartment blocks is counted a permanency, the question of unnecessary noise must come up for very serious consideration. Pianos, singing lessons, brazen-voiced hawkers, and the rest, while severally quite justifiable, are nevertheless somewhat overwhelming when supplied in bulk. Some day, it is to be hoped, legislators and owners of apartment blocks will get their heads together to devise means whereby apartment-dwellers may play, sing, shout and squawk when and where and how they please without breaking into the tranquillity of those who seek a peaceful retreat.

WITH the baseball season in the United States swinging into the home stretch it begins to appear that new entrants will take part in the World's Series, which, as baseball enthusiasts know, is the crowning event in the national pastime. Clubs hitherto denied the highest honor are this year very much in the running; so much so, in fact, that the league pace has been set by unheralded entries almost throughout the year. True, both clubs which contested for the world's championship in 1919, namely, the Cincinnati Nationals and the Chicago Americans, are still up among the leaders, but the chance of both repeating their success of a year ago is indeed very slight. Such a situation cannot fail to make for the good of the game; new strength found in old competitors adds an interest which no amount of calculated effort could produce.

IT is not difficult to believe the report that the oil companies of California said when they advanced their prices that it was not because they needed the money. Especially is this the case when one looks over the surpluses of some of the Standard Oil companies besides the New York company, which has enough undivided profits to talk about cutting a 200 per cent melon. The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, says the Boston News Bureau, has a surplus of \$507 a share. The amount of surplus looks larger when considered as a total of \$499,084,275 as compared with a capital stock of \$93,383,300. The Atlantic Refining Company is even better off, for its surplus is reported being as \$1126 a share, or a total of \$56,324,543 on a capital stock of \$5,000,000. A reading about these instances of profit, it is easier than ever to understand that the price did not go up because the companies needed the money.

PURPLE ore is an unknown quantity to the uninitiated. To the initiated it is a heavy purplish powder used chiefly as ballast by ships leaving French ports. So little worth was attached to the ore five months ago that it sold in Bordeaux for 12.50 francs a ton. Since then it has been put to new uses, and, with the rise in demand, there has been a corresponding rise in price. Purple ore has a rich iron content, and that fact has been sufficient to prompt English manufacturers to devise new uses for the powder. Its sudden leap into the limelight will perhaps stimulate interest in the residue of other minerals, the possibilities of which may have been overlooked in the rapid march of all branches of engineering.

PEOPLE generally, no doubt, will agree with former Governor Stokes of New Jersey in denouncing professional manipulation of the stock market, and declaring that "it is a perfect outrage to destroy values the way it is done on the stock market." The problem, however, is to differentiate between the proper activity and the improper manipulations. With more men holding views like those of the former New Jersey Governor and the present Comptroller of Currency at Washington taking an interest, however, the problem may not be so difficult after all.

THE significance of small things, "straws," as it were, frequently outweighs the so-called important. Such, for instance, might be the case of the sale of the police patrol wagon in Frankfort, Kentucky, once a distillery center, and the closing of the workhouse in Cincinnati, Ohio, formerly an acknowledged liquor stronghold, both events being due to prohibition. Against these incidents might be placed, say, the appeal of brewers for a reconsideration of the unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court upholding the prohibition amendment and the Volstead Enforcement Act.