

# History in the Making

If the twentieth century is to be distinguished chiefly as that marking the complete emancipation of woman, more than passing mention will be bestowed upon San Francisco's experiment with a jury composed of women sitting in judgment on one of their own sex charged with a felony. A feature of the incident was the fact that the jury was not a product of specific enactment for that purpose, but the legal result of woman's amended status, and the express wish of the accused. This desire was also notable because of the peculiar nature of the evidence in the possession of the prosecution. It was known that accused had written a letter making what was alleged to be an extortionate demand. She was prepared to confess having sent the document, but wanted to rely on proving that she had no evil motive. Under these circumstances what could have been the reason for preferring a jury of women? Was it the probability that men would be more influenced by the damaging evidence than by the testimony as to character? Was it the expectation that women could be induced to look at the whole situation from a different angle? Whatever the reasoning, accused was justified by the verdict, which was one of acquittal.

The details as thus summarized may seem trivial on the surface, but analyzed they show the exceptional and far-reaching importance of this legal departure. They attest the fact that if women juries are to become a regular part of our judicial machinery the whole psychology of prosecution and defense must undergo a radical alteration. The jury may have been right or wrong in its verdict, but, since it was arrived at by what might be termed extra-judicial processes, the experiment may be the signal for a complete revolution in legal procedure.

Another innovation growing out of the woman movement is the decision of the Chicago Board of Education to have sex hygiene a regular subject for instruction in public schools. Ella Flagg Young is responsible for this experiment, which, whatever may be its value, marks a radical change in the popular conception of educa-

tion—almost as great as that which occurred when religion was taken out of the school curriculum. It implies that a responsibility which for centuries has rested with parents is to be assumed by a school teacher. A few years ago books and pamphlets dealing with the question were suppressed in various countries, but such is the greater prominence given to sex as a result of the woman movement it is now considered a fit and necessary course in education.

The age of woman, it is still an age of education, out of which the woman movement arose. A striking evidence of this is seen in the Philippines, where wonders have been wrought by the American school system, and, strangely enough, very largely through training in athletics. In place of the practice in the United States by which in the matter of sport a few men go periodically into training and the vast army of spectators into hysteria, group games have been introduced and it is made practicable for from 80 to 90 per cent of the pupils to participate successfully.

It was early discovered that the Filipinos would have to be renovated physically if they were to accomplish mental tasks. Consumption has for centuries claimed an appalling percentage of the population, and it would have been unwise to pen up the offspring of such a race in school buildings. Accordingly the outdoor method was adopted and this led naturally to athletics. The native took to sports with avidity, and the results, as noted by two independent investigators whose reports have been made available, are: The physical development of the younger generation, the creation of a spirit of democracy, a better understanding between Americans and Filipinos, and the pursuit of studies with more relish. To those who believe that order must precede independence in the Philippines, and that the natives must be trained to self-government before it can be granted to them, the remarkable results of education per medium of supervised athletics must make a strong appeal.

In the Balkans there are signs that

wiser counsels are beginning to prevail. The disagreement among the former allies was in many respects perfectly natural. They found themselves faced with entirely unexpected conditions, which would have been almost equally trying to the diplomacy of any other nations. There was more to divide than they had anticipated, and upon that division depended the question as to whether Bulgaria or Serbia would be strengthened sufficiently to set up an empire, dominating the surrounding territories. It was not so much that they were unwilling to arbitrate their differences as the difficulty of securing disinterested arbitration. Russia, as arbitrator, was not wholly trusted because of her own interests in the decision, and because it was thought she would be less desirous of equity, or even a balance of power, than of establishing an order conducive to her expansion.

War was a supremely foolish solution of the problem, not only because it immediately resulted in a greater slaughter among the former co-operators than they suffered in the war, but because Turkey did at once the perfectly natural thing by claiming all the territory she had lost. It was this more than the appalling losses which induced Bulgaria to appeal to the powers to end the strife. The more powerful force, Bulgaria, compelled Greece to side with Serbia and to make Turkey offer similar assistance. With the wisdom of centuries of battle the sultan's advisers urged an alliance with Serbia solely for the purpose of crushing their most formidable opponent. That the Serbs did not accept the offer argues a shrewd perception of its motive. At latest it appears as though the breach will be healed. Bulgaria is actively suing for peace, and, though it is the alternative to defeat at the hands of Servians, Greeks and Roumanians in a formidable combination, the plea should prove acceptable to all sides, weakened as they are by heavy losses of men and money.

War, or near war, has again put South Africa into the news of the world. The Rand miners, for reasons not expressly stated in the dispatches, but which may be assumed as a demand for more money, have entered on a strike, and after the fashion of modern labor wars have resorted to the destruction of prop-

erty and to riots, necessitating the calling out of the troops. For this action on the part of the government there has been considerable censure, some of it extending to the British house of commons, where an ex-Australian and ex-South African agitator objected to the troops being used to preserve order. As a strike it would mean nothing more than the semi-anarchy so usual in labor disturbances were it not for the fear that the 250,000 blacks employed in the mines will join the rioters. About 6,000 have already gone out, and if followed by the others it is possible that, indorsed by the white strikers, they may revive the racial wars which were so common before the Boers and the Uitlanders established order.

Labor conditions in our own country have shown a tendency to quiet despite the fact that the Pacific Gas & Electric Company is still subjected to losses from guerilla raids by dynamiters and that 100,000 members of the Order of Railway Conductors and the Brotherhood of Trainmen have declared for a strike. In refusing the demand for more wages the railroads are pleading that recent regulations of rates have made it impossible to pay more for services without going into bankruptcy. They claim that they are being ground between the upper millstone of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the nether stone of increasing labor demands.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has delivered a scathing rebuke to the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad for its alleged loose method of conducting business, but the remarkable feature of its report was the complaint, not against a monopoly by the railroad, but against conditions which might give rise to one in the future. A recommendation was made that the company divest itself of its trolley lines because they might be used subsequently as a means of preventing competition. This view amounts to a decision that interstate railroads should not be permitted to own trolley lines.

The commission also proposes to investigate the financial operations of the New York Central and the Hudson River Railway Company, it being alleged that there are irregularities in the bond issue. Whatever the justification for treating railroad corporations as highway brigands,

there is nothing to indicate that the harassing policy of the commission is likely to check construction completely. Thanks to the great wealth of the country, and despite political obstacles, new lines are being planned in all directions. While on the subject of railroads it is worthy of note that plans are being pushed ahead for the completion of a line linking Europe and Asia. The object of the Bagdad railway, an agreement upon which has been reached between England and Germany, is to provide a line to the Persian gulf which can be connected with the European system of railways at Constantinople, presumably by means of a car ferry across the Hellespont.

Other foreign affairs calling for mention are numerous. A check has been administered to Irish home rule by the threat of the house of lords to go on strike and refuse either to pass or reject the bill granting self-government to Ireland. If rejected, the bill would become law when passed for a third time by the house of commons; but if the peers adjourn without taking action, the government is powerless to act, and the whole drama of independence will have to be staged anew. Germany, recovering somewhat from the financial stringency, is again busy with plans for effecting the army increase decided upon. To provide the necessary funds, \$250,000,000, a change has been made in the tax bill, the income minimum being reduced from \$2,500 to \$1,250. Japan, abandoning all thought of a war in the interests of a fraction of her subjects in California, is turning her attention to internal improvements, and plans the construction of a waterway and extensive harbor improvements calling for enormous expenditures and estimated to take at least ten years. Russia has been making strides in constitutionalism, the duma having passed by a large majority a motion censuring the cabinet for its failure to redeem the czar's pledges, for continuing to govern by special laws and courts-martial and for a general policy of retrogression. Russian public opinion is on the side of the parliament, treating the ministry with open contempt.

Matters political in our own country are never dull, and the week has been enlivened by the house joining in the lobby inquiry and the decision to widen the scope of that investiga-

tion by probing into past labor wars. This course will not be welcomed in many quarters actively supporting the probe as a form of official or congressional muckraking, and, if the senate means business, it is probable that those responsible for starting the chase will use their endeavors to call a halt.

Interest in the McNab affair was stimulated by the action of Judge Van Fleet in requesting the United States grand jury to excise from its report a number of reflections upon the president and those members of his administration responsible for attempting to delay the course of justice in behalf of wealthy and influential persons accused of serious crimes. The judge made it a case of "lese majeste," but the jury succeeded in obtaining the widest publicity for its opinions. Though the motive of the judge was doubtless a desire for regularity, his action only served to emphasize the offense of which the administration was guilty.

Considerable alarm was occasioned by the failure of the First-Second National Bank of Pittsburg, but the fact that it has not been followed by the collapse of other banking institutions is proof of defective methods employed by the particular bank and not of any general unsoundness in the financial affairs of the country.

Events in the history-making exposition are moving at a pace beyond the most sanguine expectations, and it is now certain that all preparations will be completed in time for the opening. Several South American republics and states of the union have chosen sites, bringing the total participants up to a number far greater than was anticipated. So convinced is New York city that it will be a record exposition it is arranging for a special display independent of that to be made by the state.

### Shoots Himself in Foot While On Hunting Trip.

Madras, Ore., July 17.—While out rabbit hunting yesterday afternoon Cliff Jackson accidentally shot himself in the left foot. He is unable to explain how it happened, but thinks the perspiration of his hands caused the hammer to slip from beneath his thumb. Dr. Haile, who is attending the case, hopes to save the foot.

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- \$5.00 Bigsby Grease Guns .....\$3.25
- All other Grease Guns .....30 per cent off
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