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CARNEGIE AGAINST ROBERTS

Ironmonger Is For and Colorado Professor Against Municipal Ownership

Newspaper reports credit Andrew Carnegie with having said recently:

"Municipal ownership is a certainty as sure as I am alive. Scotland and England are ahead of us in ownership of public property. The line seems clear to me. The increase in value made by an increasing population should belong to the city. No city should give away a franchise that belongs to the people, but whether a city should offer it as a lease for a time is another affair. The lease, if given, should be for as short a time as possible. The shorter the better. The ownership should always remain with the city. The people seemingly want municipal ownership and therefore should get it."

Prof. Frank H. Roberts of the University of Colorado, who has just returned from Europe, is credited with the belief that municipal ownership abroad is a failure. "From what I could make out," said Professor Roberts to an interviewer, "the entire municipal ownership system in England and on the continent is unbusinesslike in the extreme. In the first place, nearly all the towns are failing to make provision for depreciation of the plants—lighting, street railway, water, whatever they are operating, in order to make a better showing for the scheme at present." Professor Roberts predicts that the failure of the municipal ownership wave will inevitably bring about a crisis in England's affairs which will not fall short of revolution.

The feasibility and economy of municipal ownership of water and electric light supply for San Juan, Porto Rico, is being investigated, and for a month an expert engineer from New York has been studying the water sources in the mountains near the city. It is roughly estimated that the water works system after installation of the electric plant will cost in the neighborhood of \$800,000. It is estimated that a proper electric plant, including the cost of bringing the power from one of the falls, will cost between \$150,000 and 200,000. Interest on this amount at 6 per cent represents a saving of more than half the amount annually paid for street lighting, at present \$20,000. The municipality of Caguas is waking up to the necessity for improvements and wants to float a loan of \$100,000 to install a system of sewerage and water supply. Other municipalities show equal desire to better conditions, and everywhere there is a healthy public spirit manifested and pride in progress is shown.

It is an interesting fact that both Mr. Carnegie and Professor Roberts are members of the National Municipal League.

Developing the Briggs Discovery.
E. T. Staples left for Portland Tuesday evening to purchase machinery for the pushing of development on the famous Briggs gold quartz discovery mine in which he is largely interested. It is reported that eastern capitalists who have been here during the



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past week looking it up have become associated with Mr. Staples in the development of this property and that ample capital is insured for its operation. One of the first improvements will be in the installation of a sawmill to supply lumber and timber required. A little later on a big stamp mill is contemplated. Work has been going on steadily but slowly during the winter, but has been handicapped by the heavy snows in the mountains of the region in which it is located near the state line about 40 miles southwest of Ashland. The tunneling has opened up a ledge of immense size, 18 feet across from wall to wall, and assaying from \$8 to \$25 per ton, and a vast amount of this is now in sight, it is said. The marvellously rich quartz found by the Briggs boys on the surface a year or more ago, and which led to the development now under way at this property created much excitement and a rush to the scene at the time. The fine body of ore already uncovered is encouraging but it will not be surprising to hear at any time of a big strike in this mine.—Ashland Tidings.

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Issue of Philippine Bonds.
Washington, Feb. 15.—This afternoon the Philippine commission will open bids for the sale of \$1,000,000 of 4 per cent bonds under the act of February 6, 1905. Proposals were received until this noon. The bonds will be delivered next Tuesday. The proceeds of the bonds will be used for extensive harbor improvements and other construction work in the Philippines.

MISS MARIE DROFNAH

Of the Chas. B. Hanford Company, Discusses "Portia" in "The Merchant Of Venice"

"Which do you consider the greatest of Shakespeare's heroines?" was the question propounded to Miss Marie Drofnah at the conclusion of the performance in which the talented lady has been playing Portia to the Shylock of Charles B. Hanford.

"Shakespeare's heroines are all great in their own way," said Miss Drofnah, "and the superiority of one over another depends on the standpoint from which you view them. Take, for instance, Portia, Beatrice, Juliet or Ophelia, all such different creations, yet each has her own distinguishing traits and each has her own individuality. Of course we all have our preferences and just now I am most interested in Portia. I have always regarded her as one of the ideals of womanhood. Her chief characteristics are sweetness, tenderness, dignity, wisdom, culture, wit. Her environment has been such as to develop these qualities in the strongest degree. She was the petted child of an indulgent father, raised in affluence, surrounded by everything truly good and beautiful in art, and educated to be the companion and associate of her father and of the brilliant intellects with which he had surrounded himself. She has too that capacity for loving so peculiar to those of her nationality. There is, however, one bar to perfect happiness in the restrictions which her father has placed on her choosing of a husband, and here the nobility of her character is shown in her obedience to her dead father's wishes. That Portia is in love with Bassanio there is no doubt, though she will hardly admit it even to herself. Yet when he presents himself to try his fortune with the caskets she is half afraid to let him venture. She has by this time become conscious of her love, and though her integrity will not allow her to give him the slightest clue as to the right casket she has that trust and confidence which every true woman feels in the man she loves. During Bassanio's choosing she is torn by conflicting emotions of hope and fear, but what a delirium of joy fills her heart as he chooses the leaden casket, for here is the stamp of her father's approval of her choice. The true woman again asserts herself, and there is something so touching, so magnificent, in the complete surrender of her possessions, her servants, her freedom, herself over all, of which she has been supreme, that she compels out strongest admiration. Portia is fully conscious of what she yields and that gives the greater value to her concessions.

"Immediately upon the consummation of their happiness comes the news of Antonio's losses and arrest. With what exquisite generosity, devotion and unselfishness she abandons all thought of self, giving not only largely from her own wealth but urging Bassanio's instant departure to his friend."

"But isn't Portia generally conceded to be pre-eminent in intellect?"

"Yes, and it is in the trial scene that many of the finest points of that sensitive womanhood so dominant in her and embraces the power of 'the noblest manhood.' She is fully conscious of the part she has to play and appears before the court with that wonderful self control which belongs only to those conscious of their own power and their ability to carry their point to the end. She makes little impression on Shylock at the beginning but shows her cleverness in her first effort to get his attention when she tells him the law must grant his demand. Having gained his attention by granting the justice of his bond and admitting their inability to oppose him, she appeals to the better side of his nature and pleads for mercy. Shylock stands obdurate. She then tempts his avarice by the offer of thrice the amount mentioned in the bond. Failing in this, she paves the way to the granting of his bond by asking for the 'balance to weigh the flesh.' Imagine the shock to the sensitive, delicate refined woman to find Shylock already possessed of them, and the eagerness of her appeal for a surgeon to stop his wounds.

"On his answer, 'Is it so nominated in the bond?' her heart chills toward him as she warns him to do so much for charity. Shylock, however, so bent on obtaining the very letter of his bond, deaf to the warning, rushes toward Antonio, and at that cry, 'A

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sentence! Come, prepare, all that forbearance vanishes. Then with one masterful stroke she deals the death blow to all Shylock's hopes as she tells him to shed no drop of blood. 'Tis then all sorrow and pity for the Jew gives place to righteous scorn, indignation and disgust. It is with a triumphant exultation that she grants him his bond with the qualifying clause that the first drop of blood or the least variance from just a pound of flesh he dies and all his lands and goods are confiscated. Her work is almost finished. There is the punishment to be considered for the wicked design against the life of Antonio. This she adroitly leaves to Antonio, which must be some gratification to him for the suffering he has endured. The trial is over, and who could fail to be impressed with the heart, the soul, and the conscious strength of intellect which she has displayed throughout the whole proceeding.

"I would like to feel with Lady Martin that after the crushing defeat she has administered to Shylock, she follows him to his home and succeeds in making him a true Christian. Somehow this view seems hardly consistent with the character of either. I think Portia felt she had a mission to perform, a work to do, and having carried it through to a successful issue, having given Shylock every opportunity for clemency and magnanimity, she returned to her home at Belmont with a light heart, there to await the coming of her husband and his friend.

"Her keen sense of humor is shown all through the last act in her pre-

tended indignation over the ring. Somehow I have always felt it was a further proof of her wisdom as well as coyness to get that particular ring, as she would undoubtedly have had great difficulty in convincing Bassanio that it was indeed she who figured so prominently in his friend's release."

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