

FILTERED FACTS

By L. W. NELSON FORD.

Filtered Facts will, during the next few months, be filtered through mountain air, the air of the Blue Mountains. A week's observation of the country from around Buena Vista to Hagerstown shows a great need of suffrage for women. The type of women one sees, for example, at the many "tollgates" where one is held up for money, shows girls and women who look as if they had neither education nor interest in life.

One young woman was asked if the road between Waynesboro and Gettysburg was the road that Lee's army used at the time of the battle of Gettysburg. She answered that she didn't really know; that she had only been there two years, and that a few soldiers had been by at times, but they usually used the mud road, not the pike. We talk of foreign missions! How about beginning at home? Twelve years or so ago in the Cumberland mountains the mountaineers did not know that the Civil War was over, but those mountaineers are far from summer resorts and civilization.

One realizes that instead of the summer visitors, who come from places where they have every advantage, and who could benefit so much the country people by showing a little interest in their lives, live among the people with a sort of endemocratic "taboo" surrounding them. Hagerstown seems to be progressive to a certain extent, as the town last Saturday was full of posters of a Socialist meeting to be held in the Square that evening. But the country women want something to arouse them from their apathy; the French peasant women are not apathetic, nor the Germans or Austrians. Along the Danube, where the cultivated Viennese writers, artists, actors and professional men and women spend their summers, the spirit of democracy pervades far more than in our republic. A wonderful little garden at Dürnstein, where all the meals are served in summer from the fashionable hotel, in the evenings is full of the peasants, who come for their glass of beer and for companionship when their work is over for the day. They do not offend the taste of the summer people in the least, and both sets of people learn from each other, the same moon shines over both, and the sparkling river gives pleasure to all. A young man selling vegetables today said that many summer people were not even willing to let him have a bucket of water for the tired horse, that goes all day long to allow them to have the good food for their table. We do not know whether it is a lack of democracy in our American people or a lack of human understanding of the wants of others.

"The People's Celebration."

An editorial in one of our last week's papers in regard to the Star-Spangled Banner Celebration held forth on American democracy. Among other things, the writer said: "The celebration is a community celebration in which the plain people and the people of small means are quite as much interested as the wealthy. The people of all classes rallied to the defense of the city when it was threatened in the War of 1812, and the glory of that defense is as much the heritage of the masses as is the Star-Spangled Banner, which symbolizes the great principal of American democracy—the political equality and freedom of all men." This appeal was to try and get the men who have only 50 cents, for example, to present the committee, headed by a relative of a millionaire, with hard-earned contributions, so that even the "plain people" referred to should feel as if they were part of this wonderful proposition. The term "plain people" is very amusing to anyone who is cosmopolitan. It is essentially a Southern expression, and in the eyes of the committee doubtless means the people who live in unfashionable streets, and who have not what is commonly called "social position," which today is obtainable to any who can buy it. If the Star-Spangled Banner Show is to be a success, the young men who wrote the above editorial had better be suppressed until the money is collected. We notice that he doesn't refer to women, and we wonder if our small contributions would be accepted or not. In the eyes of this column, until we are endowed with the rights of citizenship, we should take no part in any celebration which is National. Nor should the "plain people," until people are all considered according to their standard of high ideals and the good they do for their country, regardless of sex or social position.

The Labor Bill.

Another editorial (in speaking of Mr. David Lewis in regard to his speech in the House) was very amusing. The "sympathetic" article was in regard to class feeling. It said in part: "We hate that feeling in all its manifestations. We hate it on the part of the poor man; we hate it on the part of the rich man. We hate to see it in a laborer. We hate to see it in a so-called society leader. Even the speech of our own David Lewis in the House Monday was not free from it. He, the report says, is regarded as union laborer's spokesman in Congress."

Again the editorial says: "Yet David Lewis is the last man in the

world who ought to be emphasizing class distinctions in this country. His own career is all the proof needed to show that America is still sufficiently the land of opportunity to make class hatred unnecessary and undesirable here."

Perhaps if Mr. David Lewis had not had to work in a mine at nine years old, as he narrates, and doubtless to undergo other privations which are caused by the conditions of this wonderful land of freedom, he would not be a spokesman for union labor, which has arisen from the need of the people with no capital, having to compete with capitalists.

CONGRESSIONAL WORK STILL GOES ON

Chairman Henry Assures West Virginia Delegation That Resolution Would Be Reported.

Now that the trust legislation has been sent to the Senate from the House of Representatives, and the appropriation bills will soon be ready to follow, the Congressional Union is planning increased activity in its work on the Rules Committee. Congress cannot adjourn until the Senate endorses or rejects the President's program of legislation. With what, then, will the members of the House occupy themselves during the months which will elapse before final action is taken in the Senate on these measures? The Union demands the passage of the Mondell amendment as one of its most important duties. Since the Rules Committee can make this possible by reporting out the special rule now before it for consideration, the energy of the entire Union is concentrated upon its members. Deputations continue to go daily to interview each member of this committee. The thousands of letters sent out from headquarters to all parts of the United States are beginning to show great results. The mail of every member of the Rules Committee is choked with demands for action on the special rule.

In the face of all this pressure it is maintained that the committee must act or stand before the country as blocking this eminently just piece of legislation. The deputation of West Virginia women, which was headed by Mrs. Milton McNeilan of Parkersburg, was assured by Chairman Henry that the Rules Committee would report the resolution. He made no mention of being bound by the Democratic caucus. This deputation included among its members two Congressmen from West Virginia, the Hon. M. M. Neely, a Democrat, and the Hon. Hunter H. Moss, a Republican. Nearly every State deputation has been assisted by the members of the House from their respective States. This is part of the handwriting on the wall, and should spur every suffragist to renewed endeavor. The Congressional Union plans to continue this line of work until the goal is won.

MISFORTUNES OF WAR

Anti-Suffrage Candidate to U. S. Senate Forced to Appeal to Women Voters.

George W. Turner of Spokane is a candidate for United States Senator from the State of Washington, where women are now entitled to vote on all questions and on all offices on the same terms as men. To Mr. Turner is due almost the sole responsibility of depriving the women of Washington of the right to vote for more than twenty years. The fact that he must now appeal for votes to these same women lends to his coming election a humorous turn which is not overlooked by the suffragists. In 1883 the women of Washington Territory were given the ballot by an act of the Territorial Legislature. In 1886 Mr. Turner, then a judge, and Judge Langdon formed a majority of the Supreme Court declaring the woman-suffrage law unconstitutional because it did not have a sufficient title. Other laws passed at the same time with the same kind of a title were never attacked. The following year the Legislature of the Territory again enfranchised the women. Then a bartender's wife of Spokane was refused the right to vote. She brought action against the election officers, and immediately George Turner resigned from the Federal bench and defended the election officials. The court decided that the law was invalid. The Statehood bill was hurried through Congress the following winter, the constitutional convention delegates were elected in May (the women being refused participation), and woman suffrage was not incorporated into the constitution. It was not until November, 1910, that the women of Washington were enfranchised by constitutional amendment.

The work on the Rules Committee for the past two weeks has continued with undiminished vigor. No day has been allowed to pass without some determined effort being made to induce Mr. Henry, the chairman, to call his committee together and report the special rule to the House, allowing a vote to be taken on the Mondell resolution this session.

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