

WILL SETTLE ALL QUESTIONS.

WHAT IS WHAT COCHRAN'S SYSTEM OF EQUITY IS FOR.

And the Beauty of It Is, It Settles Them Scientifically and for Good—No Necessity of Any More Divorces, or Labor Troubles, or Servant Girl Vexations.

If you want to settle anything that needs settling, from a scrap with the cook to a digestive apparatus that's been out all night, consult the Cochran System of Universal Equity. It will bring order out of chaos; compel the head of the family to get his life together; diminish crime by an "equitable disposition" thereof, through the soothing influences of "criminal pathology;" destroy "competitive vampirism;" reduce the business of department stores; abolish all anti-trust laws, and establish so perfect a system of universal equity between the sexes that divorces will be unheard of and injured wives will insist on paying their injured husbands everlasting alimony.

And the system is working six days in a week, with or without music, at 427 Fulton street, Brooklyn. It is just possible that a waiting word would not have known about the Cochran System of Universal Equity until the New York Journal of Equity of American Creation, the official organ of the system, had got its circulation up, had not Arthur C. Woodill and A. J. O'Grady pleaded guilty to the larceny of \$25,500 from the Adams Express Company. The men came before Judge Newburger in the General Sessions on Wednesday for sentence, and the "Committee of Education, Formed for the Purpose of Making Clear the Principles of a New School of Thought known as the Cochran System of Universal Equity," butted in to save Woodill from State prison. The men got five months apiece in the penitentiary and the committee butted out.

A representative of THE SUN called at the Temple of Universal Equity the other afternoon to find out more about the system. The Temple is one right up over the trolley cars and the dislocated trolley poles don't seem to interfere in the least with the working of the System. The large front room was artistically furnished, with here and there the spreading foliage of a sheltering palm and over all the redolent perfume of Easter lilies. A young woman, with a wreath of flaxen hair, eyes as blue as the faintest of Easter skies, with a slight, willow figure clad in a modish black gown, sat like a picture among the palms, lightly strumming an aria of universal equity on a typewriter.

To inquire for Mr. Thomas Cochran, founder of the System, the young woman floated into the back office and came back with an invitation to go in and see the Founder. There the fragrance of the lilies was to air and an obligato to the aria that ran on in the front office was played softly in the back room by a stately, dignified, and well-to-do figure who had made a Gibson girl green-eyed and whose brilliant olive complexion harmonized with her big, black eyes. The Founder was a man of the world, with a strong, beardless face and mixed gray hair, arose from a reclining chair as THE SUN man entered. A grave-faced man on the opposite side of the room left his seat. The obligato ceased, and led his way to the rear office where, as the Dolores of the rear office went into the front room, the Founder said:

"I am Mr. Cochran. That is Mr. Frank A. Peabody, editor of our Journal. What can I do for you?" The grave-faced man bowed, and THE SUN reporter said he wanted to know something about the System.

"It is rather a big subject," replied Mr. Cochran, "but I'll try to help you. The Cochran System of Universal Equity is the science of economics. That is the whole thing in a nut shell. You know the whole question of economics was only a theory until I devised the system of universal equity that is the latest kind of study to work this out, but now we have it. By its use a strike can be settled scientifically. By its proper application the labor problem can be settled, and settled for ever."

You know I was connected for some time with the National Civic Federation. I was associated with Senator Hanna and Cornelius N. Bliss. What office did I hold? Well, I raised a good deal of the money for the Finance Committee, of which Mr. Bliss was the chairman. I'm a cousin of Mr. Lehman, head of the United States Bank, and I'm a brother-in-law of W. H. Reynolds, who used to represent the Twenty-fourth ward here in the State Senate. My wife, Mrs. Reynolds-Cochran, has put her money into this.

But the chief man in the enterprise, the chief factor, the man who is at the heart and soul, is Frank Abernethy, the owner, among other properties, of the Fulton Street Theatre and the Brooklyn Eagle. Without Mr. Abernethy the putting of my system before the world would have been impossible, because I had no money to do it all. It was he who fitted up these offices and set us going. He is a man of wonderful enterprise. For instance, he took the Fulton Street Theatre, a dead one, and made a live, going concern. Why, he's going to have Mabel McKinley, the niece of the late President, there to sing one of our songs soon.

"What have songs to do with universal equity?" asked THE SUN man.

"Why, we've written the finest songs of labor that was ever published. It is called—what is the name of that song, Peabody? Oh, yes, that's right, 'The Men and Labor of the United States.' The words are by Andrew Sterling, you've heard of him. He's the greatest living lyric song writer. The music is by the man who wrote the name of the Doyle who wrote the music of our song?"

She of the flaxen hair and the cerulean eyes called through the door of the room. "Yes," said the Founder, "Albert J. Doyle, he wrote the music and we're bringing out the song shortly."

The expansion of the home market, increasing the wants of the people, the protection of the home market from foreign competition and an abolition of the pernicious practices of domestic competition, "vampirism."

The limitation of production to the current demands of consumption. The prominent purpose of the Cochran System of Universal Equity lies in bringing into a wise and practical co-partnership, in which labor will recognize the right of capital to the exclusive management of its private affairs, and capital will concede the right of labor to every privilege of dignified citizenship, consistent with individual liberty and an exercise of justice.

And here is the way the system will put the department stores out of business: The decline of small retail dealers in recent years has been a problem of difficult solution. Many theories have been advanced as solutions of the question of securing the convenience of local retail stores only to be found, in their failures to accomplish the desired end, to be theories and nothing more.

The retail dealer who carries one line of goods only, and who tries to make his business an accommodation, convenience and benefit to the people of his immediate vicinity, is an important factor in the normal constitution of society, and should receive most careful consideration. He is necessary to the convenience and economic supply of commodities. His maintenance is desired by all people who think along correct lines.

When the Cochran System of Universal Equity is adopted as the basis of industrial and commercial operations, restore local patronage to local retail dealers, and make merit, not the output of mechanical labor and discrimination in freight rates and discounts on large bills of sale, the magnet of retail trade.

"Yes," chimed in Mr. Cochran, "already we've had cases to adjust for our friends. I think of one young man in particular. He's been doing awful things, things that would send him to Sing Sing; but, having reduced equity to its essence, I have saved him, and without a line of publicity. "Any other specialties?" Mr. Cochran was asked.

The Founder drew from his pocket a small book, looked it over and replied: "Now this is better. Here we have it. We shall take up industrial economics, which includes labor and capital, and domestic economics, which will include the servant girl problem, the marriage relation and divorce. We can solve all these problems and solve them scientifically by my system. I worked for two years and then I found a book on the workings of the New York Fire Insurance Exchange and in the branch in the cotton goods industry, which I had been working. I can settle any strike and settle it scientifically, while now strikes are only settled on theory."

Already three branches of my industry have availed themselves of my system, the really and constantly increasing branch of the window shade business, and the asphalt industry. But were it not for the high cost of patent, for which McKinley, I think, we could not use my system in solving these problems, because a protective tariff destroys competitive vampirism."

"What do you mean by that?" asked THE SUN man.

"Cheap foreign labor competing with American labor," was the reply. "My system will break down every anti-trust law. The trusts must remain, but their distribution of products will be so systematized that my system will be a constituent company of trust will be fairly competing against its fellows. We must have competition—equitable competition."

Moreover, the department store, as it is today, must go. We shall re-establish the neighborhood shops and bring about the re-orientation of the universal equity that the people will trade in their own neighborhoods.

"How you going to do all this?" "That will be told in due time," answered Mr. Cochran, "in the columns of the New York Journal and American Craftsman, which, as I said, Mr. Peabody is the editor. The first number will be out probably on Wednesday. It will be a regular weekly newspaper. We shall answer all correspondence in that, and then we are going to establish a national league of equity clubs. But that will come later."

And up through the palm branches floated the last, laudatory bars of "In Dreamland."

PUBLICATIONS.

The April Number of MCLURE'S MAGAZINE

contains a great article by LINCOLN STEFFENS in which he follows the intricate trail of the big corporations and business men through the politics of Missouri.

Enemies of The Republic

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MAKERS OF FASHIONS AT ODDS

JULIA WARD SAYS THINGS ABOUT HER PARTNER, MRS. OSBORN.

Did Mrs. Osborn Wear Dresses to Advertise the Firm?—Mistakes in Miss Ward's Suit, Say Stockholders—Mrs. Osborn Would Talk Only of Miss Ward's Age.

Mrs. Josefa N. Osborn of 2 Rutherford place and Miss Julia Ward of 71 East Eighty-second street, president and vice-president respectively of the Mrs. Osborn Company, a fashionable dressmaking establishment with offices at 391 Fifth avenue, have a difference of opinion as to certain things that have happened in the company, and litigation has been begun, Miss Ward having obtained a temporary injunction restraining the company from disposing of any of its assets.

Mrs. Osborn and Miss Ward are both dressmakers. They organized the Mrs. Osborn company about three years ago. Mrs. Osborn, besides running the dressmaking shop, started the Mrs. Osborn playhouse in West Forty-fourth street, it was supposed to be a place where society folk could while away the hours between 10 o'clock and 11 in the evening, but "society" failed to appreciate the opportunity, and Mrs. Osborn quit.

The principal cause for complaint in Miss Ward's mind, so far as has been disclosed to the public, seemed to have been a habit which Mrs. Osborn had of making expensive trips to Europe to pick out the Paris fashions, also, of wearing gowns made by the company as advertisements.

Miss Ward, it was said last night, when she entered the Mrs. Osborn company agreed to turn over at least \$40,000 worth of business to the company the first year. In return for her services she was to receive a certain amount of stock in the company.

Instead of \$40,000 she brought in, according to her lawyer, Frank Hendricks, a young Harvard graduate, more than \$100,000 worth of custom in the first year. Mrs. Osborn and Miss Ward started off, it was said, with an equal number of shares in the company. But Mrs. Osborn, according to Lawyer Hendricks, soon acquired a majority of the voting stock. There were 30,000 shares of preferred stock at the time of the organization of the company.

Mrs. Osborn decided last spring that she would have to go to Paris to look over the styles, she went. The board of directors of the company, it is alleged, granted her an allowance of \$10 a day for expenses and the cost of the passage according to Mr. Hendricks, who doesn't remember figures very well, she put in a bill for the trip that was unsatisfactory. The board of directors, it is alleged, voted the stock against her will and had the bill approved by the board of directors.

While Mrs. Osborn was in Paris, it was said last night at Mrs. Ward's apartments, Frederick Edey of 10 West Fifty-sixth street, one of the stockholders in the dressmaking company, learned that Mrs. Osborn had been wearing a good many dresses "for advertising purposes." He immediately cabled, it was said, to Mrs. Osborn that she should have no more dresses made by the company unless she was prepared to pay for them.

But Mrs. Osborn, when she got home, it is alleged, with her voting majority of the stock, at once had the directors vote her an allowance of \$1,500 a year for dresses for herself. This amount was simply to buy the raw material and pay for the labor in making up the goods.

Mr. Edey, who is a banker with an office at 15 Wall street, when asked last night if he had ordered Mrs. Osborn to hold down the advertising dress question, said it was all "rot," that he didn't know anything about it.

Another stockholder said that he had been scratching furrows in his head trying to get some notion of what was up from the complaint which had been served on Mrs. Osborn in similar paper, he said, had been served on all the stockholders.

It was, he said, very long, "considerably longer than the legal law," and appeared to ask for an injunction against allowing the company to do anything with its assets except pay dividends on the preferred stock. It even contemplated, this man said, the shutting off of the payment of the company's employees.

Lawyer Hendricks was asked whether the limitation of production to the current demands of consumption.

The prominent purpose of the Cochran System of Universal Equity lies in bringing into a wise and practical co-partnership, in which labor will recognize the right of capital to the exclusive management of its private affairs, and capital will concede the right of labor to every privilege of dignified citizenship, consistent with individual liberty and an exercise of justice.

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IRVING PLACE THEATRE. To-day Mat. and Evg. 8:15. Christiana in the great military play. "ZAPPENREICH" (TATTOO).

MURRAY Hill Theatre, Evgs. 8:30. To-day & Thurs. 2:30.

WEST END ROSE MELVILLE. "Six Hopkins." To-morrow. 7:30. A. B. G. CONCERT—2:30.

EDEN Union in Wax. New Groups. CINE MATOGRAPH. MUSEE. Extr. attractions. POWELL, 3 & 4.

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WRIGHT LORIMER in THE SHEPHERD KING. GERTIE. Next Monday—Tickets now on sale.

BROADWAY THEATRE. 41st St. & B'way. Evgs. 8:15. Mats. To-day & Wed. HENRY W. SAVAGE offers.

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AMERICAN. Evgs. 8:00. Mat. To-day, 2:30 & 5:00. FLORENCE BINDLEY in A MIDDLETOWN MARRIAGE. To-morrow. 7:15. MATS. CONCERT. Next week. RICHARD EDLER in "Paul Hervez."

BELASCO THEATRE. Evgs. 8:15. Mat. To-day 2:30. Next Mat. Apr. 7. HENRIETTE in FORTY GRAPES. Next week. BELASCO in "Sweet Kitty Bellairs."

GRAND. Mrs. Thomas E. Shea in Repertoire. Next week—"Glistening Florida."

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BERTHA GALLAND in THE VIRGINIAN. Evgs. 8:15. Mats. To-day & Wed. 2:30. 5:00. 7:30. 10:00. Last Mat. To-day. 2:30. 5:00. 7:30. 10:00. W. M. CRANE in DAVID HARVEY.

Manhattan B'way & 83d St. Evgs. at 8:15. LAST A CHINESE HONEYMOON. Prices 25, 50, 75, 1.00. Last Mat. To-day. 2:30. 5:00. 7:30. 10:00. W. M. CRANE in DAVID HARVEY.

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ELEANOR MERELY ROBBON MARY ANN. Next week—WM. COLLIER in The Dictator.

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GARDEN Theatre, 77th St. & Mad. Ave. Evgs. 8:30. Matinee To-day. THE SECRET OF POLCHINELLE & THOMPSON.

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