

dred dollars less than usual. I told him about the contented old lady in the hut and that story cheered him up.

So, you see, contentment and happiness are matters of prudence. During our short stay on this earth we should work to make it good for everybody and, in the meantime, be happy.—Y.

THE TROUBLE IN THE SCHOOLS.—It is the same trouble that exists in every department of the public's business. It is private greed for wealth not earned, but grabbed, that makes the public business subordinate to the party machines that fight, not for the benefit of all the people, but for the control of offices, salaries, contracts, plunder, that is found where the people are not awake to right and wrong, but are engaged in grabbing for the illusory pleasures of wealth, power and high station.

Officials elected to do business for us collectively use their time largely in managing parties and waste the public money in maintaining political machines.

Civil service can do much to alleviate conditions, but civil service must have the backing of a solid body of citizens who are not blinded with the disease of wealth grabbing themselves. For this reason we are weak in all reforms. We think that great wealth is respectable and we hope to attain it ourselves.

We do not realize that great wealth is founded on a greater poverty. That wealth for the few means poverty for the many. We imagine that the wealthy give employment to the many, whereas great fortunes are founded on special privileges that take away the earnings of labor and monopolize opportunities, so that labor cannot produce wealth.

Plutocracy infects all classes. The man who hopes to get rich by aid of present social institutions and laws is as guilty as the man who has ac-

complished his desire and fights to maintain the special privileges.

Education in right lines is our only hope.—Geo. V. Wells, 6050 South Park Av.

WISE GIRLS.—I read with great interest in The Public Forum about girls falling for hot-air stuff. Well, I know from my experience working around merry-go-rounds, circuses and carnivals that a lot of girls who think that they are wise and know it all break their necks to make the acquaintance of these men and fall for their line of guff. The same with the likes of Motorcycle Petes, etc. They are asked to take a ride, fall for the hot air, are ridden out to no-man's land, and if they have any change it is taken from them and they are deserted and must get back home the best way they can.

The slow girls likes to talk to a man who does not deal in that kind of bunk, but talks of topics of the day, and in the course of time it's matrimony. That's what I have seen in the last seven or eight years. Now look around in a crowd and see if you could sort them out—the real wise girls and the ones that think they are wise.—Hank.

CAN'T EAT ON \$13. — Perhaps that family that tested living on \$7.50 a week were all sick at the time and might have been filling up on patent medicine, so they could not take all the food that a healthy person required.

We are a family of five. I have three boys, the oldest 5, the youngest 2. I have tried living on less than \$13 a week table board, but it cannot be done; it takes \$13 or more each week, and that is for the table. I do all my own cooking, baking and preserving and have chickens and get fresh eggs all the year around. And I get fresh cow's milk, where the folks that are expected to live on \$7.50 a week in the city only get skimmed milk at 8 cents a quart and