

THE PUBLIC FORUM

BILLBOARDS. — Are not outdoor advertisements objectionable and do they not offend the eye? The greatest sense of the human organism, the sight, is flagrantly violated by hideous ads that thrust themselves upon our attention whether desired or no. Why not regulate this ugly and nasty offensive nuisance.—A Reader.

OLD CAP STREETER. — If the American citizenry want to know whether or not they are fooling the observant foreigner, take heed. An Englishman said to me recently: "Cap Streeter is the only American I know of for whom I have respect. He is what every American likes to imagine himself to be." Take that!

Now, of course, our friend's expression was a broad one which should not be accepted literally, for we still have John Dietz, Vincent St. John, Gene Debs, Little, Haywood, etc., every one (like old Cap), all fighters and, in jail or out, for breaking our holy blue laws.

But John Bull is right in the main. The joke is on us. If one Cap Streeter, by his inveterate refusal to be good in the orthodox sense, can fix his bayonet and stand guard at the age of 76 years, presumably the 3,000,000 A. F. of L.'s, I. W. W.'s and Socialists could do a little something now and then if only a drop of Cap's blood were dropped into Lake Michigan and the aforementioned millions inoculated with the mixture. Cap may never have heard of the theory of doubly periodic functions, but he knows that "the danged dollar-hawks" are bilking the populace with arguments that would keep the grass perennially green on the Yukon.

Cap Streeter's lesson should be dramatized as the spirit of the Alamo applied to the land. For those who have eyes to see, his example is a terrific rebuke to his countrymen. He stands for squatter sovereignty,

which is a glorious thing if you can put it over. And his status now indicates that fortune favors the brave. I call the attention of the homeless multi-millions to one man who loves his country so much that he will not be driven from the face of it into tenantry or pauperism.—John F. Kendrick.

STUDY OF SCIENCE.—The great majority of our young men haven't the time or the price to attend college, so they are sadly lacking in information and reasoning power and are not so protected from superstition as the college man. Pastor Russell in his talk at the Auditorium said that 95 per cent of big college graduates lost their theology.

The worker is easily fooled by the theologians. He should cut out a lot of the games and love stories and read the elementary books of science.

The theological word and phrase jugglers will put it all over you if you don't know how to reason. They will tell you there is something that created everything. If their Creator exists he must be something, so, according to their logic, He made himself. They claim there are three Creators and only one at the same time. A little arithmetic will tell you better. Again they claim their Creator had a lot of men write a book of about 800 pages for him, in which he says the universe is about 6,000 years old. Geology will tell you different.

There are thousands of absurdities in the book, but they will tell you that because many millions of people have believed it, it must be true. Multiplying ignoramuses don't make wise men; it only increases the foolish.

Elementary scientific books can be found in the libraries or second-hand book stores for 15 or 20 cents. Now don't blame me after you go daffy. In Paterson and other places where Billy Sunday operated the unions lost half their members, it is