

stocks and bonds. When Governor Pin-gree left his executive office at the beginning of this year, his popularity was temporarily under a cloud, his opposition to expansion having alienated supporters in his party, and his wholesale granting of paroles having alienated supporters in both parties. But the record made by the present Legislature, unrestrained by his influence, had completely re-established his old prestige, and when the news of his sickness was telegraphed to this country, his fellow-citizens were already engaged in preparing for him such a reception as had never been given to a returning public official. He made many enemies, and was severely criticised even by political sympathizers for self-assertion and for recklessness of speech, but his career was that of a man who weighed his deeds even if he did not weigh his words, and who asserted the rights of the poor even when his own popularity was thereby jeopardized. He was charged with having assailed the rights of property; but no man in our time has done more to give concrete reality to Emerson's distinction between good wealth and bad wealth—between wealth that is earned and wealth that is merely capitalized extortion. The fight which he made against the perpetuation of unearned dividends on watered securities will in the end make safer and surer the payment of earned dividends upon capital actually invested in any form of industry. All over this country his struggles have given courage to those who are battling for the maintenance of the rights of the common people.



The West Virginia Flood Not since the breaking of the Johnstown dam has water played such havoc as in the flood in West Virginia on Saturday of last week. Throughout that day and night an extraordinarily heavy down-pour of rain fell in the Elkhorn Creek Valley, a prosperous mining region in the extreme southern part of West Virginia. The Elkhorn Creek, which flows through a basin surrounded by high mountain ranges, and, being fed by many small mountain streams, rises rapidly, spread in a few hours over the surrounding country, washing away the town of Keystone, destroying railway tracks and bridges for thirty

miles, and bringing death and disaster to the inhabitants of the region. Many escaped from their inundated dwellings to the higher ground. When the train on the Norfolk and Western Railway reached Vivian on Sunday morning, it met the flood and could go no further. The passengers had to be rescued from the water that filled the cars by ropes strung from the windows to the tops of coke-ovens still standing some distance away. Telegraphic communication west of Bluefield is cut off, so that the full extent of the calamity cannot at this writing be known. Present estimates put the loss of life at nearly a hundred; the damage to property may amount to a million dollars.



The Barker Case The State of New Jersey, and in some sense the whole country, is to be congratulated on the verdict of guilty so promptly rendered by the jury in the case of the trial of Mr. Thomas G. Barker for the shooting of the Rev. John Keller last February. The evidence in this case appears to indicate that Mr. Barker's wife, whom charity will regard as not sane, preferred certain charges to her husband against her former pastor, whereupon her husband, without, so far as it appears, making any further inquiry or investigation, waylaid the minister and shot him. That he did not kill his intended victim appears to have been due rather to the imperfection of his aim than to any lack of murderous purpose. The court did not allow the charges against Mr. Keller to be laid in form before the jury, though the counsel for the defense succeeded in bringing out something of those charges by indirect methods. No one, however, appears to have taken them seriously, unless it were the defendant and his wife; the unfortunate clergyman, who has lost the use of one eye and nearly lost the use of the other as a result of the shooting, appears to be absolutely without any suspicion of ill behavior on the part of those who know him best. It ought by this time to be settled that in civilized communities no husband may take the law into his own hands, make himself judge, jury, and sheriff, try and convict an accused without giving him a hearing or explaining to

him the accusation, sentence him to death, and inflict the death penalty. In its judicial repudiation of the doctrine of emotional insanity New Jersey has set an example which The Outlook would be glad to see followed by all judges and juries in all parts of the Union.



The Philadelphia Franchises

Mr. John Wanamaker has rendered a further service in the matter of exposing the value of the public property turned over to private individuals in Philadelphia by the scandalous franchise ordinances of week before last. Representative Foederer, one of the machine coterie to whom the franchises were granted, had intimated in a reported interview that Mr. Wanamaker's offer of \$2,500,000 to the city for these franchises was not sincere. Mr. Wanamaker, in a reply, renews the offer in the most explicit terms, and offers a further bonus of half a million dollars to Mr. Foederer and his associates if they will release the rights for which they paid nothing—unless for the corruption of officials. "In addition to this," he continues, "I will agree, on the surface roads covered by your charters and the ordinances, that three-cent fares only shall be charged between the hours of 5 and 8 A.M. and 5 and 7 P.M., and not over five cents for the other hours." This last offer is worth as much to the poor of the city as was the first offer to the direct taxpayers. Indeed, it is worth more, for it means a saving of twelve dollars a year to all working people who ride to and from their work, and a great saving of time and strength to others who would ride if the fares were lower. That three-cent fares during the "rush" hours are profitable is clear to any one who notes the crowding of the cars at these hours, even if he knows nothing of the profitableness of three-cent fares in Detroit and Toronto. Mr. Albert Johnson, the head of the inter-State system of trolley lines who offered three-cent fares all day if given the Philadelphia franchises, states that he found five-cent fares to Coney Island profitable in Brooklyn, where he had to give three-eighths of his capital to a syndicate for his franchise, and used cars with only half the seating capacity of those now employed. Fortunately, we

are able to record that the indecent haste of the Philadelphia city government in giving to a political clique franchises worth several millions, and authorizing five-cent fares when three-cent fares were offered, has awakened the public as no other event has done in years, and the prospects are now bright for a union of all the independent elements in a municipal campaign against the machine which is responsible for the recent outrages.



The Decision Against Preferred Creditors

The vital clause of the new bankruptcy law is the one forbidding the giving of preferences to certain creditors to the injury of others; and the Supreme Court has now upheld this clause in a way that gives it even greater vitality than the supporters of the law contemplated. The case passed upon was one in which the bankrupt firm of Frank Brothers in Chicago had bought \$4,300 worth of goods of Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co. within four months of its assignment, paying thereon \$1,300. The trustees of the bankrupt firm took the position that Carson & Co. must return this \$1,300 or lose its right to share in the subsequent equal division of the bankrupt's estate among all the creditors. The Supreme Court has upheld this interpretation of the law, and the National Credit Association at its recent meeting in Cleveland has in consequence adopted a resolution calling for such an amendment of the bankruptcy law as will prevent the "construing of payments upon accounts made within four months of the adjudication in bankruptcy as preferences, which, unless surrendered, bar the creditor from participation in the distribution of the assets of the bankrupt estate." It is easy to understand the sentiment which impelled the adoption of this resolution, for it is indeed a hardship for an honest wholesale dealer to be obliged to pay back money which he has already collected in the ordinary course of business; but unless he is willing to submit to this hardship we can see no way in which he can prevent the renewed giving of preferences to competitors less lenient with the bankrupt, or even to dishonest persons in collusion with the bankrupt to defraud the sellers of goods. The moral evils inseparable from the permission of preferences