

which has a deserved reputation for fairness and which says of the strike that—

it is a fight against the Steel Trust. The Lake Carriers' Association is dominated by the Pittsburg Steamship Company. It is the Pittsburg Steamship Company, the Steel Trust fleet, that dictates the policy of other shipowners in that Association. . . . The shipowners follow the Trust, partly because they are forced to, and partly because they hope to be able to secure much cheaper labor if the Trust can destroy the unions. The determination of the union men, on the other hand, is a result of their understanding that defeat for them means either slavery or exile. . . . The real issue in this great struggle of labor against capital, humanity against money, can be briefly stated. It is this: "Shall the seaman who sails the Great Lakes be permitted to earn enough wages and to work under conditions that will enable him to support a family?" The Lake Carriers' Association says No. The Seamen's Unions say Yes!

To secure fair pay, the seamen of the Great Lakes organized. Their wages then rose above the starvation point. But the organized ship owners decreed the dissolution of the seamen's organization, and on this issue the strike began. Which side are you on?

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### The New York Senator.

Until the new Senator from New York shows what kind of democracy his Democracy is, democratic Democrats will have to admit that the joke is on them. His certificate of political character bears only the hallmark of Tammany. But the joke comes with ill grace from Republicans whose representatives voted steadily for the re-election of Depew. Judge O'Gorman cannot possibly be a worse Senator than Chauncey Depew, and the range of chances for his turning out a better one is almost infinite.

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### Coxism.

Boss Cox of Cincinnati must think he has fallen upon evil times. Grand juries are indicting him, public officials are prosecuting him, and there is at least one Cincinnati judge who won't obey him. His reign in Ohio is at an end. But others will appear at the old stand to do Cox's work. Not criminal work, to be sure; this is out of date, and if it were not they wouldn't know how. They are not raw in their methods, as Cox was. They keep no drinking saloons. They handle no corrupting "coin." They are "public spirited" and soft-cooing, and they will be supported by "business interests"—the same that Cox used to serve. You may know them by their attitude toward the kind of measures that would have interested Cox. They will work in a clean way, and Cox didn't; but they will work to the same end that he did. Is it

the Initiative and Referendum? Cox was "for-against" it, and so will they be. Is it the Recall? Same thing. Is it a proposal to pledge delegates to Constitutional conventions, so that they will represent the people instead of the Interests? Cox would have been against it, and so will those "public spirited reformers" who believe in reforms but are opposed to adopting them. Let it be any genuine electoral reform, or municipal reform, or tax reform, or other reform that spells danger to the Interests, and you can spot your man just by asking him how he stands. If the reform can be killed by compromise, he will be for compromise with enthusiasm; otherwise he will wax virtuously indignant at "new fangled notions."

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Herbert S. Bigelow said the last word on the Boss Cox episode in an address in Cincinnati last Sunday at the People's Church:

Cincinnati's turn has come. The people are on the man-hunt. Their boss is at bay. The conventional American boss starts in a dive, becomes a banker, and then goes to the penitentiary. A grand jury has suggested that the Cincinnati boss, having begun in a George street dive, and attained to a Fourth street bank, should now round out his career in the usual way. But whether or not the boss "who never broke his word" shall be sent to the penitentiary for perjury, important consequences are likely to follow his indictment. His political power is already a thing of the past. But after routing the organization of the boss, and perhaps putting him in stripes, what then? Prevention, after all, is more important than prosecution. One thing needed is a non-partisan ballot for the election of city officials. When a member of the legislature, the man who is now prosecuting the Cincinnati boss, introduced a bill providing for this reform, they laughed him to scorn. A ballot of roosters and eagles is a political totem-pole. The Crosser bill, now pending in the legislature, provides for the Initiative and Referendum in cities. This too would be a long step in the direction of a cleaner political life. This bill gives the people the power to enact or reject ordinances by direct vote at the polls. It enables the people to exercise their acknowledged sovereignty. This principle of direct legislation promotes the education of the people and checks political corruption. How will the so-called "Cox Senators" vote on this bill? There are three of them. Their vote may not be without its significance at this time. For what is the charge against the Cincinnati boss? The real charge is that this man makes a business of selling government favors to franchise-seeking corporations. This Ohio legislature can grant no greater favor to these public-service corporations than to defeat the Initiative and Referendum bill. Those who believe in the guilt of the boss do not expect men whom he has nominated to vote otherwise than as the corporation lobby directs. But the people turn in hope to Governor Harmon and to the legislative majority that they

gave him. The Governor and his legislature are pledged by platform to the support of this great progressive measure. Its enactment into law will be a more effective blow to political scoundrelism than the convention of a penitentiary-full of political bosses.

And that is the reason it will be defeated if the cooing lobbyists at Columbus have any luck.

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### That Leader of the Oregon Bar.

Frederick V. Holman is widely advertised by plutocratic interests just now as leader of the Oregon bar. There are two reasons for it. The first reason is that he is giving out testimony against the Initiative and Referendum in Oregon; the second is that he is lawyer for the electric power company of Portland.

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The kind of testimony Mr. Holman furnishes goes to show that he, leader of the bar or not, must be better lawyer than witness. Indeed, he couldn't be worse, judging him from the dispatches. According to a Portland dispatch of March 25, in the Saratogan of Saratoga Springs, New York, he testifies that Direct Legislation has got Oregon into a tangle because certain things would happen if certain things were done. "Suppose" this were done, or "suppose" that were done, is the substance of Mr. Holman's alleged testimony. But nowhere in the dispatch does it appear that any of his dreadful suppositions have come to a head, although Oregon has had Direct Legislation for almost a decade. Instead of testifying to Oregon facts, he testifies to corporation fears. That may be good law, but it is not good evidence.

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### Crime Waves.

No better explanation of waves of crime in cities, and the remedy, has ever been condensed into smaller space than this in the New York World by John J. Egan: "The wave is caused by human wrecks in the struggle for existence. The idle rich are dangerous, and the idle poor are desperate. Society must find a way of putting both to work."

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### Governor Johnson of California.

Among the few periodicals of this country that can be depended upon to go in the right direction, as the editor honestly sees the right, is The San Francisco Star. It does not rush into the arms of good men or good movements merely because they wear the "good" label, nor away from those that happen to come within the range of mud-balls. Not whether the label or the mud-marks

are there, but whether they belong there, is The Star's test. This well earned reputation of a long and rocky journalistic life is justified again in The Star's tribute to Governor Johnson, the progressive Republican whose election it opposed in favor of a progressive Democrat.

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Governor Johnson having signed the eight hour labor law for women, The Star quotes his statement in which he characterizes the opposition as "purely economic," it being asserted that it will work hardship upon various business enterprises. Thereupon The Star observes that "over and over again have business interests demonstrated that they care less for humanity than for business interests—this with here or there a notable and pleasing exception." The Star then pays its respects to Governor Johnson in this wholesome tribute:

We have at no time entertained a doubt that Governor Johnson would sign this bill. We knew the tremendous influences that were brought to bear upon him to induce him to veto it, but all through the winter we have been learning more and more of the manly strength of this Governor of whom all of us are proud, and we knew he would not "fall down" when women appealed to him for help. Governor Johnson, we salute you. We are becoming mightily interested in your record, and we believe you mean to "make good" throughout.

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### The Only Firm Basis of Law and Order.

"Justice," wrote Mr. Roosevelt in the Outlook of February 25, "is based upon law and order;" which is like saying that honesty and truth are based upon the statute against frauds and perjuries. He adds: "Without law and order there can be no justice." But without justice can there be law and order? Mr. Roosevelt appears to have asked himself the question; for farther on he explains that "law and order are good only when used to bring about" permanent justice. This is eternally true, but revolutionary to the last degree.

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### A Picture Deal.

A pretty caper is this of Lord Lansdowne, who offers a famous Rembrandt—"The Old Mill"—to the National Gallery at London for \$475,000. It cost the Lansdowne family \$4,000 a hundred years ago, says the London Labour Leader, which adds that Lansdowne, in order to enhance British gratitude, "goes so far as to say that there is an American millionaire in the background who would give him \$25,000 more for the price-