

O Bicyclades; for instance, how to drive a nail; yet the carpenter does not need to call his compass a kuklographonate in order to be employed. He doesn't even call himself a Professor of Lumber Surgery."

"No, for it requires more skill and longer training to be a doctor than to be a carpenter; therefore we give the doctor due honor by a title."

"Are all doctors, then, skilled and well trained, Bicyclades?"

"In truth, no; many of them know very little. Indeed, to be a watchmaker takes more skill than most doctors have."

"But does the watchmaker call himself a Horological Doctor, or a Professor of Tickbrontonomy?"

"No, Socrates, for the watchmaker, like the carpenter, depends for his success upon his skill, of which anyone can judge. Whereas no one can judge the skill of the physician."

"But if his patients get well, does it not show that the physician is skillful, Bicyclades?"

"By Hercules, no; for nature usually makes persons well, anyhow, in most cases—if we let them alone; and of course the patients of even the greatest physicians will die when they get diseases sufficiently severe."

"Then the man who called his tool a Dismorphostapalimklast was not a fool, Bicyclades; was he not rather a swindler?"

"No, Socrates, he was only a fakir, for he supplied what people wanted."

"What is it to fake, Bicyclades?"

"It is to sell to the simple at a wondrous price that which is simple in itself."

"Is not Medicine, then, the greatest of fakes?"

"It appears to be so, unless we except Theology—and Philosophy, Socrates."—Bolton Hall.

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THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

One object of government is to build men. Men are built by responsibility. Rob a man of the right to do wrong, and you take away his chance to grow. Communities no more than men can be kept in leading strings without a loss of strength. Put the referendum in the city charter and let the citizens vote down good measures if they do not know any better. Let them swim. Let them work blunders. Let them learn by experience. Let them have a direct voice in their government. That will increase responsibility. That will stimulate the discussion of questions referred to the people. That will in time raise the level of intelligence, awaken public spirit, develop civic virtue and make better men.

In Los Angeles, Cal., when a city ordinance is passed, or a franchise granted, or a bridge voted for, in short, when any unpopular measure is passed, the citizens can, by a petition of five per cent. of the voters, compel the authorities to refer the measure to them at the next regular election. This is self-government. This is the veto power in the hands of the voters. It is the principle of the old New England town meeting applied to our more complex conditions.

The initiative and referendum would prevent changes to which the people have not been educated. The Socialists in Oregon failed to get the necessary eight per cent. of the voters to sign petitions to submit their proposals to a referendum. Professor John R. Commons, of the University of Wisconsin, while favoring the initiative and referendum, insists that it will be a disappointment to reformers. Under this provision changes must wait for a change in public opinion. But by assuring this, the interests not only of the conservatives are served, but also of the reformers; for if a reform cannot come until the people are ready for it, when it does come it will stay.

It is sometimes urged against the initiative and referendum that the people will take little interest in the referendum vote, and that questions would therefore be determined by a comparative few. This has not been the case where the referendum has been tried. But even if it were so, it is an argument for this proposal and not against it. We frequently hear the complaint that our suffrage is debased by our ignorant vote. This is a plan of eliminating the ignorant vote, not by complex machinery and arbitrary regulations, but naturally and automatically. This plan puts a premium upon intelligence. In the Chicago referendums the vote was lightest in the slum and river wards.

Government of the people by the rascals for the rich—that is Lincoln Steffens' statement of the case. In the large cities this is the exact situation. The rascally politicians make the laws, and they make them in the interests, not of the people whom they are supposed to represent, but in the interests of the corporations.

With the initiative and referendum we may realize the hope of a government of the people, by the people, for the people.

HERBERT S. BIGELOW.

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THE ECONOMIC POLICY OF THE LIBERAL PARTY.

From "What Is the Liberal Policy?" by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister of Great Britain, in *The World To-day*, for March, 1906.

It may accurately be said that there is practically but one great impediment in the way of a sweeping improvement which would elevate the physical and moral welfare of the people. This is the interest, and the overdue regard to the interest, of the landowner, and the political and social influence that he and his class can exercise. Let the value of land be assessed independently of the buildings upon it, and upon such valuation let contributions be made to those public services which create the value.

What is our rating system? It is a tax upon industry and labor, upon enterprise, upon improvement; it is a tax which is the direct cause of much of the suffering and overcrowding in the towns. Overcrowding is not a symptom only, but a cause of poverty, because it demoralizes its victims and forces them to find relief in excesses. By throwing the taxes on site values, communities which have created these values will be set free, free in the sense that they can expand, free to direct their own destinies.

Foremost among our domestic duties is the succor of the masses who are in poverty. If it can be shown that poverty, whether it be material poverty or poverty of physique and of energy, is associated with economic conditions which, though supported by the laws of the country, are nevertheless contrary to economic laws and considerations and to public policy, the State can intervene without fear of doing harm. Is there any lack of such conditions among us? I fear not. The country is still largely governed by castes, and it has to compete with nations which have shaken off feudal ways and privileges which we continue to tolerate.

It can not be too often repeated and enforced that the way to go to work to organize the home market is not the crude and unequal and exploded method of setting up tariffs. It is to raise the standard of living, abolishing those centers of stagnant misery which are a disgrace to our name, and when once the home market is so organized the demand for