

money they shall not go to the legislature, but shall ask the people for it by Initiative petition. That will make them independent of the legislature.

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Now, why such a publication at public expense?

In order that the people may have correct information about their own affairs, information that they do not get, and apparently cannot get, through the newspapers.

The newspapers have said but little about the bill, but it is significant that the proposed law was recently severely condemned by a committee of the State Bar Association, appointed by the president of the Association. The president is the chief counsel and a director of the street railroad monopoly of Portland, and as chairman of the committee that reported on the bill he appointed another corporation attorney. The same committee condemned the home rule tax amendment proposed through Initiative petition by the Oregon State Federation of Labor. The amendment will, if adopted by the voters, enable the people to put upon the corporations some of the taxation that they should carry; and the Gazette, if established, will make the people independent of tainted news columns and tainted editorial opinions, of which Oregon has its full share, thanks to Special Privilege, which is now trying to overturn the people's rule in this State.

Every observing man knows how hard it is to get reliable news of government from the newspapers, and every qualified newspaper man knows how hard it is at times to get reliable news for readers. The proposed Oregon Official Gazette would be of great value to every paper, daily as well as weekly, that is conducted as a newspaper rather than as an organ of Special Privilege—as may be inferred by anyone who sees how the census bulletins are used by papers for the writing of news articles and for editorial purposes.

From an experience of more than twenty years in editing daily papers in three States and in trying to get reliable information concerning matters of State and county and city government, I know how valuable the proposed official gazette would be; and if I were editing an Oregon paper I should advocate the establishment of this Gazette because it would help me and benefit the readers of my paper.

The very silence of the Oregon papers in regard to the bill for an official gazette, as well as in regard to other important measures to be voted on, suggests that powerful influences are at work to withhold information from the voters. Even more suggestive is the deliberate misrepresentation on the part of newspapers that are notoriously under the control of the great corporations, which use coercion and money to poison the sources of public information.

W. G. EGGLESTON.

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AUSTRALIAN POLITICS.

Corowa, N. S. W., Australia, July 2, 1910.

The first session of the new Federal Parliament (p. 535), was opened yesterday. Among the measures proposed by the Labor ministry and named in the Governor General's speech, are the following: Legal tender notes redeemable, on demand, in gold;

liberalization of old age pension requirements; progressive taxation of the unimproved value of land, with an exemption of \$25,000; provisions "which it is confidently believed, will, by making fertile land available, speedily induce very large numbers of people of the right kind to settle on the lands of the Commonwealth;" a Constitutional amendment "for the purpose of enabling the Federal Parliament to legislate effectively with regard to corporations, commercial trusts, combinations, and monopolies in relation to trade, manufactures, or production, industrial matters, and navigation," to be submitted "to the electors at a referendum early next year;" provision "for uniform postage rates throughout the Commonwealth;" steps toward leasing "a telegraph line across Canada for a period of five years," and "obtaining the permanent use of a line, as well as of a cable across the Atlantic, thus securing a state-owned service between the United Kingdom and Australia."

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In South Australia, a Labor party government for the State has been formed, with Crawford Vaughn, formerly secretary of the South Australian Single Tax League, as one of the Ministers.

ERNEST BRAY.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

RECKLESS INSENSIBILITY.

Boston, Mass.

It is difficult to write with moderation of President Taft's delivery at Bar Harbor,—though every allowance be made for one who has long enjoyed enormous official salaries, who ruled for years in a colonial palace, who has been provided with special trains, motors, yachts and a summer villa by the sea, and who was surrounded, when he spoke at Bar Harbor, by the rich, and luxurious and the representatives of those great "Interests" with which he is in close connection at all times. His recommendation of "two or three months' vacation" as necessary to relieve the nervous strain of the work of the autumn and spring, exhibited either reckless disregard of facts or cruel insensibility to them.

The President is not President of the rich and great, but of the toiling millions to whom a vacation even of a week would mean starvation!

Two months' vacation for the laborers in the fields under the summer sun! Two months' vacation for the workers in textile factories with their humid atmosphere and the deafening roar of machinery! Two months' vacation in the glass factories, in the coal mines, in the mechanical trades! What a cruel satire is the mere suggestion! How provocative of socialism is this utterance from the public servant who has left his official residence without warrant and who threw himself in good fellowship with the idlers about him, whose life is a life of pleasure and who take their "two or three months' vacation" only from one pleasure to another.

Not to speak of those, the unspeakable class, the