

played his cards to drive the audience away without giving Baker a chance to address them. But although it was nearly midnight when Baker began speaking, he held the audience for forty minutes, scoring the Republicans for their subservency to the trusts, and in denunciation of Rockefeller and Standard Oil methods of finance, although McCarren was on the platform with a number of his cronies. The audience greeted Baker's exhortation of Wall street methods of fleecing the public, with rapturous applause, while McCarren and his friends winced and covertly sneered. A few nights subsequent to this, at a district meeting where Baker was billed as the chief speaker, an ex-Congressman was introduced first and held the platform for an hour. Baker was billed to speak at two other meetings that same evening and requested the chairman to notify the speaker that he had these other engagements. It has always been the custom in Brooklyn for speakers to give way temporarily to candidates who have other appointments to fill. After repeating the request Baker left without addressing the meeting. However, he took pains to let both his friends and enemies know that the leaders had deliberately planned to squelch him.

Although not in favor with the Anti-Bryan Democrats who have control of the Brooklyn machine, Baker is popular with the rank and file Democrats who do the voting. They give evidence that they admire his fighting qualities wherever he addresses them. Even at a conservative business men's noonday meeting in New York, at 597 Broadway, one day last week, at which I was present, Baker was the only speaker that evoked enthusiasm, although his talk was along the most radical lines. He received quite an ovation from the audience at the conclusion, the reporters joining in the applause.

A few evenings ago I was passing through Baker's district on a trolley car. Just before I got off a couple of gentlemen, who by their dress and demeanor gave evidence of being successful business or professional men, took seats near me. One of them expressed himself very strongly in favor of Baker's course in Congress and said that he believed the people would return him, the other gentleman quietly assenting. Some of his friends are predicting that he will lead the ticket, notwithstanding the secret knifing that he will receive at the hands of McCarren's friends. Baker, himself, feels sanguine of victory if he had friends to make an aggressive and thorough campaign. To do this effectively he must not only conduct the cart-tail campaign, but the forty thousand voters in his district should receive his record both in and out of Congress. This alone will cost a thousand dollars. The circulation of his article in the September Arena, entitled "The Reign of Graft and Its Remedy," would be an effective campaign document.

Both the national committee and the Congressional committee have refused him aid. He will receive no aid from the local committee. Unless his radical friends throughout the country lend a helping hand he has a difficult task ahead of him. His reelection would be a victory for radical democracy everywhere.

D. S. LUTHER

BUFFALO.

Buffalo, N. Y., Oct. 18.—In my last letter (p. 278) I told of the "public opinion" ordinance which had been adopted by the Common Council of this city, referring to the fact that a resolution had been introduced in the Board of Aldermen providing that a question be submitted to the voters to advise whether school houses shall be opened for public meetings under proper regulations, and saying that the resolution had been referred to the school committee, and that the Common Council had adjourned over the month of August. Since then some progress has been made.

The Board of Aldermen met on the 5th of September. Mr. Stockton, of the Referendum League, was unable to persuade the committee on schools to meet and take action on the resolution prior to the meeting of the Board. He did, however, persuade the Board of Aldermen to discharge the committee and adopt the resolution. Approved by the Board of Councilmen on the 7th and signed by the Mayor on the 8th the ordinance came in force just within the required time for placing it on the ballot.

The next problem was to get the question upon the ballot. The City Clerk on the 3d of October, under the direction of the Corporation Counsel, sent a certified copy of the referendum ordinance and the resolution to the Commissioner of Elections, who is a county officer, with a request that he place the question on the ballot and inform him (the city clerk) whether or not he would do so. The Corporation Counsel and Mr. Stockton were preparing to make application to the Supreme Court for a peremptory writ of mandamus to compel the Commissioner of Elections to place the question on the ballot in case his answer was unfavorable. This proved unnecessary, however, for a reply was received from that officer saying the question would go upon the ballot.

The problem now is to get the people to vote on the proposition. This question was adopted for the purpose of starting the referendum movement without the corporate opposition which would be met if a question more vital were submitted. The disadvantage lies in the fact that, owing to the character of the question and the shortness of the time before election, the vote may be light. This would give the opposition newspapers a string to harp on about the referendum always being a failure. The Referendum League is doing all in its

power to arouse interest in the question. The two morning papers are favorable and give us a good deal of space, and several high school teachers are trying to get their pupils to work at the polls. The Superintendent of Education is in favor of the adoption of the plan.

The League is also questioning candidates for the State legislature as to their stand on the referendum generally, and has prepared literature to send out in opposition to State Senator George A. Davis, who "held up" the referendum bills in the Cities Committee of the Senate last winter and who is now seeking reelection. The normal Republican majority in his district is 2,200, which the League hopes to reduce.

ALBERT H. JACKSON.

AUSTRALASIA (p. 407).

Corowa, N. S. W., Sept. 15.—An important question in connection with land tenures is coming up for settlement in New Zealand. About 1,735,000 acres are held by nearly 9,000 tenants on lease; 1,565,000 acres being at a rent of four per cent. of the capital value, without revaluation, for 999 years, and the balance subject to periodical revaluation. There is a movement to allow these tenants to purchase the freehold. This is strongly opposed by a party which also desires to prevent any more crown land being sold. Mr. Seddon, the premier, who is an opportunist, has parried the matter so far, and has now shelved it by appointing a royal commission to inquire into the whole question of land tenure.

In New South Wales we have a perpetual leasing system, also, the land being let at a rent of one and one-fourth per cent. of the capital value for the first five years, and afterwards at two and one-half per cent., subject to revaluations. There is a similar proposal here, that the tenants should be allowed to buy the freehold, but the number of leaseholders is not yet large. The chief argument used in favor of the proposal is that tenants cannot borrow money on the security of their land. To read the Conservative papers, anyone would think a farmer could not be happy unless his land were mortgaged.

In this state the Reform party has organized a ministry, with Joseph Caruthers as premier and James Ashton, a true democrat, as minister of lands.

The Labor party has made a further gain in Queensland. There were three parties in the State parliament until the Labor party and another formed a coalition ministry. But the House was then almost equally divided, so that neither side could command a majority. An election was held in August, when the parties were returned as follows:

Ministerialist (coalition).....	19
Labor (coalition).....	34
Opposition.....	14
Independent.....	2

In the previous parliament the Labor