

to meet him in debate or ask questions. As a result of his contest the "black sheep," although supported by the local organization, was defeated.

Bravo, Johnson! If we had more Democratic leaders like him the Democratic party would soon be invincible. The election of undemocratic Democrats to office is infinitely worse for the party than defeat. A party can afford to be small if it stands for the right, because then it will grow; but if a party, however large, selects for office men who do the bidding of corporations and then renominates such men after their affiliations are known, that party must, sooner or later, have, as it deserves, the contempt of good citizens. The Republican party is controlled by the corporations; we cannot defeat it by putting the Democratic party under the same control, but we can defeat it by making the Democratic party an honest exponent of honest government.

The Democratic party of Ohio is the stronger for the purging it is receiving. The largest part of Tom Johnson's greatness is to be found in the fact that he has faith in the right, faith in the people and the moral courage to put his faith to the test by his acts. He has won his fight in the city of Cleveland because he has had the courage to fight for the people and to appeal to them. He will ultimately win his fight in Ohio in spite of the slurs and slanders of papers like the Cincinnati Enquirer.

#### THE REFERENDUM IN OREGON.

It is a year this month since the referendum amendment to the constitution of Oregon was adopted by the overwhelming vote of 11 to 1. Although in operation for so short a time some of the good effects of the new plan have already manifested themselves. Some of these results are as follows:

1. Exploiting schemes have been kept out of the legislature through fear of this veto power of the people.
2. Good measures that had been vigorously attacked by interested corporations were allowed to stand, the people refusing to sign their petitions for a call for a referendum, thus showing the trustworthiness of popular judgment, and incidentally refuting the slander sometimes made that "anyone will sign a petition."

Hon. W. S. U'Ren, a member of the legislature of Oregon, in a late letter to Eltwed Pomeroy, President of

the National Direct Legislation League, says:

The first effect of the referendum in Oregon is the comparative absence of charges of corruption and partisanship in the legislature. The newspapers have generally spoken well of the last assembly or said nothing, while for the previous ten years at least, the rule has been that some bitter things were printed about the want of honor and intelligence among the legislators. Altogether the last session of the last assembly was the best for many years, and we credit a good deal of this to the direct legislation amendment.

After speaking of the failure of certain parties to secure the referendum on several laws, Mr. U'Ren continues:

We may logically deduce from this experience that the referendum is not easily invoked, even though only five per cent. of the voters are required; that a law must be very unpopular if the people will not permit it to be tried, when there is no reasonable ground to believe it was corruptly passed; that if the people have any good reason to suspect that the referendum is sought from selfish motives or for personal profit they will not sign the petition in such a case. So far the results have been very satisfactory.

Referring to the same subject about which Mr. U'Ren has just been quoted, "The Oregonian," of Portland, has the following in a late editorial:

The result may be accepted everywhere as it is in Oregon, as a fresh testimonial to the wisdom and safety of popular government.

The referendum stands accordingly as a safeguard in the people's hands against pernicious acts of an unworthy legislature and a conniving governor. Any hope of using it as an instrument of improper purposes must be infinitesimal, after the late severe test, in which powerful interests conspicuously failed in their attempt to invoke the plebiscite by widely circulated and strenuously urged petitions.

The amendment is the stronger for its trial, and while it is likely to remain a dead letter except in its operation as a potential check on legislative misconduct, it may yet have a day of abundant triumph in actual employment to defeat a pernicious law.

JAS. P. CADMAN.

Chicago, June 13, 1903.

#### THE PARABLE OF PEOPLES.

For The Public.

Behold, in the Land of "The Free" there once dwelt a man named Al Peoples, whose natural sight was abated through his habit of never looking far beyond his stomach.

In those days there were in the land a few men with large pockets in their togas, who told Al what to do, and often joshed about things out of sight to him. They put him wise that the Creator had fixed everything O. K. and intended him not to see farther. And when uneasiness came over Peoples they would daily get out large

sheets of papyri, with many big red letters thereon, proving how wrong and foolish it would be for anyone to try and see into to-morrow or want to change the way the "Lord had made things." And if Al persisted, they called him "anarchist," "socialist," "single taxer," and "disturber of (their) peace," which names so struck terror to his heart that he would retire within his shell. They further gave him their colored goggles to look through, and thus did he see things as they wished.

And it came to pass one day, while Al was upholding the "Dignity of Labor" (literal dignity, there being no levity in it), he was held up by a licensed and respectable robber named Water (Monopoly), for whom he coughed up a little. The next day Gas, the brother of Water, relieved him of more of his "root of all," and each day their brother Street Car would catch him "gwine and comin'."

When Al or his wife or children did overtime enough so they thought he could buy a little stuffing or cover, the other brothers who lived elsewhere—Patent, Tariff and Special Legal Privilege, would touch him for their share at the store where he bought, as they fixed the prices on goods.

Having a strong imagination, Al could see the "great prosperity" and "full dinner pail" all about him, and he was withal quite cheerful. These evidently respectable robbers were doing a lawful and recognized standard business that only took a part of what he made, and he thought it necessary to the good of the community.

On the first of each month, however, old Father Monopoly, whose front name was Land, would come to Al, finding that the boys had only taken one-quarter of what he made. Al and his family using another quarter, saving one-half, which Father Land Monopoly appropriated.

Now in the course of time it came to pass that some of Al's neighbors got to reading exciting literature, or had lovely pipe dreams, and they said one to another: "We can spout gas, carry our own water, and ride in some home-made cassettes; and as for Tariff, Privilege and Patent—what good are they? We will do without them, thus saving one-fourth of what we produce."

The move was carried with a whoop; the place became so popular that people flocked there to roost, the demand for lots arose, and old Father Land Monopoly prepared to cut some real cream cheese, for he would now take three-fourths instead of one-half of