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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:

States Rights and Human Rights.....	49
Circumstantial Democrats	49
The Voice of a Real Democrat.....	50
The Proposed Embargo and Peace.....	51
Bread Is Mightier Than Cannon.....	51
Senator Burton and Privilege.....	52
An Old Poem's Modern Moral.....	52
Repealing the Law of Supply and Demand.....	52
Indignant at Its Own Work.....	53
Chicago's Opportunity	53
Sensible Disregard of Law.....	53
No Time for Piecemeal Reform.....	54
Enforcing the Law.....	54

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE:

California's Democracy In Action—James P. Cadman	54
Statewide Singletax Movement in Illinois—Hugh Reid	55

NEWS NARRATIVE:

The President's Jackson Day Address.....	56
Congressional News	57
Peace Meeting in Washington.....	58
Popular Government League Meeting.....	58
National Employment Agencies.....	59
The Labor War.....	59
Houston Kickers Invite Retaliation.....	59
Municipal Ownership in Calgary.....	60
Mexico	61
The European War.....	61
News Notes	62
Press Opinions	63

RELATED THINGS:

Kings and Peoples—Joseph Dana Miller.....	64
Wanted: Aggressive Pacifism—Louis B. Lochner.....	64
Mammon, The Modern War God—Israel Zangwill.....	67

BOOKS:

A Modern Spy	67
The Newspaper a Business Tool.....	68
The Heart of Democracy.....	68
Books Received	68

EDITORIAL

States Rights and Human Rights.

The doctrine of States rights does not constitute a valid objection to the federal woman suffrage resolution. Suffrage is a right, not a privilege. A State may as logically set up a nabsolute monarchy within its borders as to deny the vote to any mature person of sound mind. States that are doing so are abusing their power. Human rights are superior to States' rights. No State would have just cause for complaint should the federal government compel it to cease denying to half of its population the right to participate in the framing of laws which all are expected to obey. It is possible that passage of the resolution at the present time would have done harm to the suffrage cause. But that is a question of policy which concerns only those whose rights are at stake. If they see fit to press the question, Congress can not properly consider any other phase of the matter than the justice of the demand. This makes regrettable President Wilson's reiteration of the fallacy that the question is one for the states to settle.

S. D.



Circumstantial Democrats.

The revolt of ex-Governor Colquitt of Texas, and the restiveness of certain other Democrats offers further evidence of the presence of incongruous elements within the Democratic party. First, it was the Louisiana sugar men who wanted protection for their pet industry, then the Alabama iron men, and the Florida fruit men; and now it is the Texas cotton men. The fact that these men stand upon a platform that declared it "to be a fundamental principle of the Democratic party that the federal government, under the Constitution, has no right or power to impose or collect tariff duties, except for the purpose of revenue," shows that they are Democrats from circumstance, rather than from conviction. Democracy with them is a mere shibbolith, a name by which they distinguish one class of citizens

from another, without any regard to their political convictions. But they have, by their blind fatuity, tied their own hands. They dare not vote against the Democratic party, and they have not strength enough within the party to control its policy, or nominate its candidates. There is no redress for them, save to relieve their feelings by abusing the President now, and then voting for him on election day. Criticism of Democrats with tory constituencies should not be taken too seriously.

S. C.



The Voice of a Real Democrat.

President Wilson has delivered to Congress some remarkable messages, messages such as have not been addressed to that body in many years; but these messages, definite and fundamental as they have been, were sometimes as conspicuous for what they did not say, as for what they did say. So that the elation of the democratic Democrat was chilled by the fear that the President had reached his limit. This fear has been removed by Mr. Wilson's Indianapolis speech. That speech breathes the air of freedom. It is the word of a man who has escaped the confines and restraints that prevail in a formalized body like Congress; and there is evidence that the President feels the inspiration that he says he derives from the presence of the people. Should the criticism be made that the President speaks as the head of a party, rather than as the head of the nation, it must be remembered that our form of government makes this unavoidable; for the President is the head of the party and the country has for the time being entrusted its affairs to that party. He in reality speaks as the head of the nation when he speaks as the head of the party that controls the affairs of the nation.



That the President has not come to the end of a good program is evident from his injunction to the Democratic party. "The Democratic party," he says, "is not to suppose that it is done with the business. The Democratic party is still on trial. The Democratic party has to prove to the independent voter of this country, not only that it believes these things, but that it will continue to work along these lines." Then follows a heart to heart talk with the people upon the leading topics of the day, such as has rarely been heard between a great leader and the voters. And though his words have the simpleness and the clearness that brings them within the comprehension of the average citizen, they have the decisiveness and the

boldness that indicates conviction. It is this boldness that must be assumed by the whole Democratic party if it is to meet the attacks of the Republicans, and win the Progressives. This lack of boldness and decision has in the past been the party's fundamental weakness. The Republicans, having a simple and definite policy, the perpetuation of Privilege, have been able to overthrow the Democrats because of their lack of conviction.



That the President has overrated the convictions of his own party is not unlikely; but his own sincerity of purpose cannot be doubted. The independent voters, therefore, who are acting at present with the Democratic party cannot serve themselves and the party more efficiently than by making it plain why they are co-operating with that party, and that they will withhold their aid whenever it betrays the principles it has taken up. The President frankly recognizes the political situation by admitting that neither the Republican party nor the Democratic party now has a majority; but that the controlling power lies with the independent voter. It is his ambition, he says, to make every independent voter a Democrat. This the independent voter can meet by saying that being a democrat by nature he will act with the Democratic party as long as it is democratic.



The President's last message to Congress was criticized by some because it said nothing of the Mexican question. The Little Congressmen and the Yellow Journalists have nagged at him from the beginning of his administration for not having a Mexican policy. But this was said only because the President's policy was so far above the swashbuckler-statesmanship, too often inflicted upon this country, that his little critics could not comprehend or appreciate it. In his Indianapolis speech, however, he has made his policy so plain that even these can understand it. Speaking of Mexico he said:

I hold it as a fundamental principle, and so do you, that every people has the right to determine its own form of government; and until the recent revolution in Mexico, until the end of the Diaz reign, 80 per cent of the people of Mexico never had a "look in" in determining who should be their governors or what their government should be. I am for the 80 per cent. It is none of my business, and it is none of your business, how long they take in determining it. It is none of my business, and it is none of yours, how they go about the business. The country is theirs. The government is theirs. The liberty, if they can get it, and God speed them in getting it, is theirs. And so far as my influence