

came. They were always informative, acute, lucid, interesting and genuine; and more than once, entirely apart from his contributions that it published, *The Public* has been indebted to Mr. Larimer for facts, hints and suggestions which have entered satisfactorily into its decisions on questions of editorial policy. Though a mere boy in years, for he died at 36, and a friend whose face we have never seen, David K. Larimer is one whose death touches us more than most deaths have, with a tenderly affectionate realization of his fidelity to the truths that came within his vision and the readiness and ability with which he sprang to their service.



THE DAMNING CLAUSE IN ANY THIRD-TERM CREED.

An English writer has commented with surprise and admiration on the capability which the typical American has shown of rising to the occasion when placed in a position of political importance. This writer cited McKinley as an illustration. There are instances of lesser note in the nation, in each State, and in each community. I recall at this moment the case of a mayor in one of our larger cities. There was nothing in his previous career to warrant a prediction of successful administration. He was a man without much education, just a commonplace semi-political citizen, nominated by the organization, it would seem quite by accident, and elected in a spiritless campaign. And yet this man made, even by the confession of opponents, a splendid official. He was more than faithful to the prescribed duties of his position. He was an aggressive leader in all matters of civic improvement.

The point is that we have plenty of citizens in this Republic capable of filling any political position, from President down. George Washington thought so in his day. He did not think that George Washington was necessary to keep the country from collapsing. All the Presidents of the United States have been capable men, and some of the least celebrated have been the most useful. Let us remember that we are not seeking for rulers but for intelligent public servants. If our democracy cannot find and supply these in amply sufficient numbers, then we had better confess failure and go back a couple of centuries. It is all right in a monarchy for the king or his minister to say, I alone can save the state. But such an utterance is an insult or a joke in a democracy, if it is a democracy.

So, coming to the present situation in our po-

litical affairs, we object to the solemn-sounding words of certain men in high position that Mr. Roosevelt is the one man who can fill at this time for the good of the nation the position of President. We have no objection to Governor this or Senator that saying that Mr. Roosevelt is the one man who can save the Republican party from defeat. That is all right. That is a party matter. But to say openly, or even to suggest or imply, that Mr. Roosevelt, or any other man, is necessary to save this nation is a slanderous utterance against the nation. This is the damning clause in any third-term creed. The very advocacy of a third-term candidacy in the face of a splendid tradition is the confession of weakness, incapacity and failure, unworthy of American citizenship, and the mere suggestion of the necessity of such action is utterly and pitifully destructive to the ideals of democracy. The men who are advocating a third, and maybe a fourth, and so forth, term for Mr. Roosevelt are blind to the fact that, in trying to cure certain grievances which they see, they are flying to the chiefest of evils in a popular form of government. This chiefest of evils, which Washington foresaw and others since have foreseen, is the insidious idea of some emergency in which resort must be had to what has been known in history as "the strong man," or "the man on horseback," or to what the American people themselves have called Mr. Roosevelt, "the man with the big stick." It seems strange that those who are now supporting Mr. Roosevelt do not see this danger of weakening the ideals, and the still young tradition, of our republican government. It seems strange that the very men who are professing themselves champions of the people should be rushing into a course which is the negation of democracy. These men would pay too high a price for what they want. We cannot give up the tradition against the third term. This tradition is worth more to us than any reform that can be conceived in the brain of any of the seven Governors.

J. H. DILLARD.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

SINGLETAX CAMPAIGNING IN SEATTLE.

Seattle, March 7.

It was a great battle, that of day before yesterday in Seattle. Not for the Singletax, for this it was only a preliminary skirmish; but for civic decency and manhood and womanhood. And in the election of George F. Cotterill for Mayor, manhood and womanhood won.