

refused to entertain the plan, and the Democrats have taken up the challenge for an open fight on principles. The Republicans refused to declare for anything specific in the Constitution, on the ground that it was a matter for the various counties alone to decide. It is generally realized, however, that the Republican caucus will control the action of the delegates from all the counties, notwithstanding their pledges, on the ground of party solidarity.

Beyond the assertion that they desire a "safe, sane, sound and fundamentally simple" Constitution, the Republican party has given the people no promise of a Constitution not written by the railroads and other special interests.

Thomas B. Catron, who is regarded as the Republican leader and who is a candidate for the Senatorship, has expressed himself on a Constitution embodying the Initiative and Referendum by saying: "No hybrid nondescript Constitution for me."

W. H. Andrews, formerly of Pennsylvania, the other Republican candidate for the Senate, has remained silent, but his position is too well known to need a declaration.

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Indications at this time are that the Democrats will be able to secure the Initiative and Referendum. They intend to center their fight on these provisions and are convinced that if these are incorporated into the Constitution, that document will need little more to make it a people's Constitution.

There will be 100 delegates to the convention. These, under the provisions of the enabling act as written by Beveridge, have been apportioned to the counties under the vote of 1908, which gives the Republicans a decided advantage.

A conservative view of the strength of the parties in the convention is that the Democrats will have 40 delegates and the Republicans 60. But this really leaves the Democrats in control; for on their approval depends the acceptance of the Constitution by the people, who must pass on it at a special election before it is referred to Congress. It is generally understood that unless the Constitution embodies some of the provisions insisted on by the Democrats the people will vote it down, and Statehood will be indefinitely delayed.

Another factor in the situation is the fact that the native people do not as a rule desire Statehood, fearing it will mean higher taxes. This will give those who desire to defeat the Constitution additional force to oppose it.

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Among Democrats and Republicans alike there is resentment at the un-American treatment received by New Mexico at the hands of Congress. No other State which entered the Union has been subjected to such humiliating restrictions.

The most galling of these is the provision of the enabling act that Congress, as well as the President, may pass upon the Constitution, which has never been required before in the history of the country.

The President while here on his western trip made the threat that unless New Mexico adopted a Constitution that was "conservative" he would not approve of it. He has since given out this impres-

sion in Washington. Fearing that New Mexico will follow the example of Oklahoma, he has made it plain that he will not lend his influence to an early admission of either New Mexico or Arizona unless they avoid what he terms "freaks" in their organic law.

But the Democrats have not been scared away by the threats of the President. They will insist on a progressive Constitution, at the risk of having it rejected. The prediction is made, however, that the President and Congress will not dare reject a Constitution approved by the people of New Mexico, but are attempting to coerce the people into accepting

a Constitution along lines agreeable to the corporate interests, which are now busily at work in New Mexico.

WM. HOFFMAN.

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OREGON OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Portland, Ore., July 28.

The People's Power League of Oregon proposes this year, by Initiative petition, a bill to create a board of "three people's inspectors of government" who shall edit an official gazette (p. 703), a magazine to be published every two months from the State printing office.

If the voters approve the bill, the inspectors must have at least one of their number present at all times at every session of each chamber of the legislature to take note of what is done. Upon the demand of one inspector they shall investigate and report on the management of any public officer of the State, of a county or a municipality, or of any State institution. They must publish their reports in the official gazette; must publish criticisms or complaints, not exceeding two hundred words, made by citizens, of the official acts of the inspectors; must publish all proclamations by the Governor, and brief reports by the Governor on the different departments of the State government; must publish similar reports by county commissioners and by mayors of cities; must publish new laws and Constitutional amendments, and all publications now required by law to be mailed to the voters; must publish matters of public interest concerning the acts of Oregon Senators and Representatives in Congress; and also news of progress and experiments in government in this and other countries. The proposed law limits the cost of the Official Gazette to not more than \$1 for each registered voter in the State, though it is to be mailed free to voters, and prohibits the publication in it of advertisements.

If the bill for the Official Gazette is approved by the voters, the first three inspectors are to be appointed in this way: The Governor must request the State Grange to name three persons, the State Federation of Labor to name three, and the presidents of the different commercial bodies of the State to name three; and from each set of three the Governor must choose one. So it is pretty safe to say that there will be no unholy combine in that trio, especially as any one inspector can start an investigation. In 1912 they are to be elected by proportional representation. The inspectors are to have expert accountant help, and should they need extra

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