

machine, in view of its apparent accord with the popular will, and of the usual public indifference upon such matters.

Like all political rings, the Missouri organization is, of course, allied with and imbibes sustenance from every predatory corporation and privileged interest which does business in Missouri. Folk cannot be handled by these interests. He has tried to put their servants in jail—not, it must be admitted, with much success. But that is why the machine hates him, why it will never forgive him, and why it will oppose any aspiration, Senatorial or Presidential, which he may cherish now or in the future.

The liquor element, always allied with machine politics, has a special grievance of its own against Governor Folk. He enforced the Sunday law and other saloon restrictions while he was Governor, with the result that the entire "liberal" element of the State is bitterly hostile to him. The voting strength of this element in St. Louis and Kansas City, alone, not to mention the other smaller cities and towns of the State, is tremendous.

Missouri contains a large Democratic element, which, for want of a better term, must be denominated "mossback." With this element the beginning and ending of all things is party regularity. These people by the thousands have become convinced, through insistent machine insinuation, that Folk "is not a good Democrat." His tendency toward political independence is a sin, not a virtue, in their eyes. They honestly believe that his course has been responsible for the fact that the State has gone Republican in the last two Presidential elections, and especially do they point to the fact that the same election which made him Governor gave Missouri's electoral vote to Roosevelt.

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Mr. Folk is wanting in qualities of political leadership. He lacks personal popularity. It is no exaggeration to say that he is unpopular, especially with the urban dwellers of the State. What personal popularity he has is among the rural population.

Unlike some other reformers—La Follette, Cummins, Ben Lindsey and others—Mr. Folk has not had a succession of political victories to give him prestige, and to inspire fear in the hearts of his enemies. Only once has he won on his merits. That was when he was elected Governor. He was made circuit attorney by the St. Louis machine in the mistaken belief that he would prove pliant. The Governorship came to him as a result of his exposures of corruption in Missouri's public life. When he aspired to the Senatorship, while still Governor, he was beaten.

Many reformers and fundamental democrats do not take kindly to Mr. Folk. They regard him as a selfish man, bent solely on gratifying his own ambition. They call him platitudinous, and declare that his platitudes are not based on sincere conviction. His personal mode of life, it is charged, do not square with his public professions. Of course it is easy to pass such criticism as theirs upon any man, and it may not be fair to Mr. Folk. But the fact remains that, in face of generally recognized machine hostility, there is lacking on the other hand any spontaneous or enthusiastic movement in his behalf.

Take it all in all, it does not seem probable at this time at least, that Mr. Folk will be a commanding figure in the Democratic Presidential race.

D. K. L.

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## THE OREGON GRANGERS.

Oregon City, Ore., June 30, 1910.

The Oregon Grange, which a year ago denounced the political machinists of Oregon, has this year again invited the agents, tools and newspapers of special privilege to count it among the progressive institutions of the country. The kind of men it condemned last year are trying this year to break down the initiative and referendum and the direct primary. But while the corporation agents and press were using epithets and appealing to prejudice in their attempt to persuade the people to return to the Sodom and Gomorrah days of Oregon politics and legislation, including the auction-block method of electing United States Senators, and to defeat the progressive measures to be voted on in November, the State Grange, at its annual meeting in Oregon City in May, urged all Grangers to study public questions on their merits, regardless of prejudice, names, epithets and personalities. The following "general report of the committee on legislation" was unanimously adopted:

We do earnestly urge the members of our order to study the science and administration of government in Oregon and in other States and nations. By such an example we believe our fellow Grangers can greatly aid in the progress of our State.

Among the subjects which we believe to be worthy of especial study are the forms on which the executive and administrative departments of our State and county governments are organized. The judiciary department is also justly criticised for delays and expenses in court proceedings. Many students say we could learn much from foreign governments and private corporations as to more efficient forms of organization in these departments of our government.

In this study we should always be on guard against our prejudices. Let us not forget that we owe Australia for our ballot system, Switzerland for our direct legislation, Los Angeles for our recall, ancient England for our Bill of Rights, as well as modern England for much of our corrupt practices law, and Wisconsin and Minnesota for the foundation of our direct primary law.

Therefore, we recommend to the members of our order that they shall be always on watch for other ideas and principles that can be profitably appropriated and adapted by the people in the Constitution and laws of Oregon. In doing this we should have no fear of names, either of principles or parties. The value of an idea cannot be lessened or increased by branding it "government ownership," "home rule," or "local option," either in bonding or taxation.

The value of a suggestion cannot depend on the popular name of those who present it, whether they be called "good road advocates," "Republicans," "socialists," "single taxers," "general property taxers," "prohibitionists" or "adventists." Let us consider the proposal rather than the proposer.

In conclusion, we do most earnestly urge the members of our order and the voters of Oregon, under all circumstances and at all times, to advocate and vote for every measure which will increase the power of the people of Oregon to control every department of their government, especially in applying just methods of taxation and the prudent spending of public money. The

voters can never get too much or too direct power of government, nor become too perfect in its practice.

These resolutions were adopted by the Grange upon the recommendation of B. F. Laughlin, J. E. Clark, W. Morrill, J. C. Miller and A. C. Staten, the committee on legislation.

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Perhaps, to a man outside of Oregon, those recommendations don't seem to touch any political jade on a raw spot; but the man on the inside sees that they are a left hook on an ulcerated political tooth belonging to special privilege, which is working three shifts a day this year to defeat the "more power" measures that will be on the ballot next November.

More power for the people means less power for special privilege, as special privilege has discovered since the initiative and referendum, the direct primary law, and other "people's power" measures have trimmed the politicians and ex-bosses up and down until they have to wear labels to recognize one another. The noise made by them and their newspaper organs is a daily reminder to the whole State of Oregon that if you walk through a bunch of cats and happen to step on one tail, you can always tell which cat that tail belongs to.

One might write a ream of what the special privilege corporations in Oregon are doing this year to defeat the "more power" measures; but what's the use? They are doing the same old things—including making promises to develop the State—and every man who knows why political wheels buzz knows what those things are.

However, the corporations in Oregon are doing one thing that is not on their program: They are convincing some men in Oregon who never believed it before that neither in this nor in any other State can the people have full self-government, and the best pocketbook results from government, until they own and operate their public utilities. For it is easier for a camel to turn a handspring through a napkin ring than for a corporation that has the taxing power to quit meddling in politics.

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The resolutions of the Oregon Grange, while they do not mention the instructive speech made by Senator Bourne in the Senate on May 5, are really a strong endorsement of all that he said about the value of people's political power as exemplified in Oregon. The Grange urges all voters to disregard names and personalities, and "under all circumstances and at all times to advocate and vote for every measure which will increase the power of the people." And, finally, it nails this truth to its flagstaff: "The voters can never get too much or too direct power of self-government, nor become too perfect in its practice."

That is the Grange's answer to the political machinists and corporation papers that are willing the people should have the initiative and referendum and other political powers—provided they don't use them.

But the people of Oregon do use their powers, and the way of the ex-boss is hard. No matter which way he turns he rips his trousers on a "people's power" barbed wire fence. Every time he

slips his hand into the people's pocket he finds it caught by direct primary, or initiative and referendum, or recall, or corrupt practices fish hooks. It's worse than anything a comet could do to him. He thunders in editorial columns at the "arrogance" and "rebellion" of the people against "constituted authority," and the voters go right along doing their chores until election day. Then they vote, and tie another rope around his legs.

W. G. EGGLESTON.

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## THE SINGLE TAX IN CANADA.

Winnipeg, June 24.

Prince Albert, Sask., a progressive town of about 8,000 population largely devoted to lumbering, milling and trading, is making an effort to secure legislation from the Provincial government to put a single tax system in force there. The Council has already unanimously passed a resolution favoring the single tax, and a committee is now busy going into the whole question. The move had its origin with Ald. O. B. Manville, who has given the taxation question a very considerable amount of attention.

Since Vancouver took the lead in adopting the single tax (p. 444), the municipal authorities in many western Canadian cities and towns have given the matter favorable consideration. We look for a marked movement in this direction. The experience of Vancouver has this year been one of unprecedented building activity.

ROBERT L. SCOTT.

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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### JOSEPH FELS IN DENMARK.

Olstykke, Denmark, June 17, 1910.

Two eminent citizens of the United States have lately visited Denmark: Mr. Theodore Roosevelt and Mr. Joseph Fels, the former in May, the latter in June. Mr. Roosevelt came as a whirlwind over our little country, raising a large cloud of dust, particularly newspaper dust. Mr. Fels came as a refreshing breeze on a sultry day, raising no dust of any kind, but giving new vigor to many of those who bear the burden and the heat of the day.

And sultry it is, indeed, in Denmark just now, that is to say, politically. The conservative and moderate forces have rallied against democracy, and are eagerly endeavoring to put the people in fear of socialism, single tax, equal suffrage, and the like. And they have so far succeeded that at the election in May they got the majority of seats in Folketinget (our House of Commons). Consequently our present Radical-Liberal ministry will have to retire, and we shall no doubt very soon have a Moderate-Conservative government, that will favor no radical measures.

As for Mr. Roosevelt, I did not long to see him. Quite the reverse with regard to Mr. Fels.

On Sunday, June 12, Mr. Fels visited the Housemen's agricultural college near Odense, where he spoke to an audience mostly consisting of small holders. The following days Mr. Fels was in Copenhagen, whence he made trips to the agricultural col-