

French women to rear men to die for his personal glory.

Dorothy Johns, writing in the American Magazine for August, under the caption of "Barbarous Mexico," relates that she saw a poor woman on the street, bearing a heavy burden, fall, and roll into the gutter, where she gave birth to a child. A policeman had thought her drunk. But "when he became aware of the woman's condition he leaned over and with his middle finger deliberately thumped that expectant mother in the side, as one tests a ripening melon, and with a knowing leer hailed another policeman just then crossing the street, with, "Say, mate! (Oyez, Compadre!) It's all ripe, ready to pull; another soldier for Porfirio!"

Napoleon was more polite to motherhood, but his appreciation thereof was no higher than that of the brutal Mexican policeman.

Were the French mothers proud to bear men-children for Napoleon's wars? So also were the mothers of India proud to cast their children under another Juggernaut.

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When Frederick the Great spurred his soldiers to valor by shouting "Dogs, would you live forever?" it doubtless had the desired effect upon the "dogs." But it also revealed the true status of the common soldier in the estimation of the "hero" (God save the mark!) for whose individual glory the common soldier is to die.

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War is but an incidental phase of the evolution of the human race in its progress to the goal of universal peace.

The hazards of constructive industry today demand a courage as great as the soldier's; and the noblest achievement possible to the individual is to diminish those hazards.

The elements that make for unselfish, patriotic, heroic manhood are all—every one of them—multitudinous in the common life of the people.

The voice of militarism is but the "call of the wild," a beckoning back to the low, savage levels of the outgrown past, up from which the nations have struggled through blood, rapine, famine and pestilence!

Have we gained the glorious uplands of peace? God help us to go forward!

EDWARD HOWARD PUTNAM.

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I will smite the winter house with the summer house; and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall have an end.—Amos, iii:15.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE ISSUE IN NEW MEXICO.

Albuquerque, N. M., July 25.

New Mexico is now in the heat of a struggle for popular government as against government by the special interests.

With the passage of the enabling act for the formation of a State government at the close of the last session of Congress came the proclamation of the Governor for the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention; and it is over this election, which will be held on September 6, that both political parties are now engaged in the warfare for ascendancy.

Whether the new State shall adopt a conservative, "safe and sane" Constitution, as urged by President Taft, or a Constitution embodying vital safeguards for the people and direct legislation, is the question at issue.

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The Democrats have taken advanced ground on the question of the Constitution. They insist that it shall embody direct legislation through the Initiative and Referendum; election of Senators by vote of the people; the direct primary; publication of campaign contributions; the establishment of a State corporation commission elected by the people, with power to regulate railroads and public service corporations; and other minor features.

The Democrats have come out through their central committee with a clear declaration of principles. Their platform is not voluminous, but is vital from the standpoint of securing popular government.

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In the fight of the Democracy the influence of John Z. White's recent visit to the Territory has played a prominent part. Mr. White spoke before a number of bodies in Albuquerque on "Direct Legislation," and the tremendous sentiment for popular government among the Democrats and progressive Republicans is due more to the seed thus sown than to any other one thing.

The Democratic central committee has placed orders for 5,000 copies of Mr. White's essay on "Direct Legislation," which first appeared in *The Public*, for general distribution. Other copies will be ordered later. *The Tribune Citizen*, the organ of the Democratic party in New Mexico, has been running Mr. White's essay as a standing advertisement. Five thousand copies are being translated into Spanish for circulation among the native people. In addition to this, as campaign material, the Democrats are circulating several thousand copies of Senator Bourne's speech on direct legislation in Oregon.

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The Republicans have made no declaration of principles. Although the Democratic central committee at its recent meetings in Albuquerque proposed a non-partisan Constitutional Convention, the Republicans

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