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**EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE**


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**THE DIRECT LEGISLATION CAMPAIGN  
IN ARKANSAS.**

Little Rock, Ark.

It would be illuminating indeed for all good Republicans in Northern States, who regard direct legislation with suspicion on the ground that it is a "Bryan Democrat scheme," to visit Arkansas just now, where an amendment to the State constitution providing for the Initiative and Referendum is an active issue to be decided by the voters at the polls September 12. For Arkansas is as insanely Democratic as Pennsylvania is Republican, and the aforesaid Republican conservative who thinks with his prejudices instead of his brains would be astonished to find a persistent opposition to the Initiative and Referendum by Democratic politicians.

Strangely enough, these valiant champions of "un-terrified Democracy" are opposed to direct legislation, to judge from their talk, for the identical reasons which lead the followers of Lincoln to combat it; to-wit, "the people are not intelligent enough," "it is a Populist idea," "the Socialists are for it," "the Niggers could vote;" and then follows the wearying list of the terrible things—the confusion, anarchy and all—which might happen if these "dangerous powers" were given to the people.

This is the underground talk which is spread among the upper classes. When it comes to the common people more adroit methods must of course be adopted. Here appear, then, the ancient and formidable objections to "this particular amendment," set forth with due gravity by most eminent and praiseworthy pillars of the law, the church and society, all of whom are heartily "in favor of the principle"—but! "the percentages on petition are too low," "the majority required to enact a law by the initiative is entirely too small," it contains the constitutional initiative which would allow most direful things to happen to our "organic law" and upset that venerable and sacred document, the constitution.

Further still an alarming "joker" has been discovered. It is set up that under this amendment towns could "vote in" whisky, gambling, horse racing, etc., in spite of State laws; and a prominent religious editor has been induced to come out against "Amendment 10" on the ground that it is a "gamblers' and saloonkeepers' scheme." Since the "wet" vote of the State will go solidly against the amendment, it is sadly amusing to see this ardent champion of prohibition solemnly calling out in a recent editorial, "Men of God, rally and defeat Amendment No. 10!" when the amendment itself is the only hope he can have to achieve State-wide prohibition. Which again demonstrates the political acumen of the average preacher, long on moral enthusiasm and short on economic facts and political maneuvering.

The real sources of all this opposition, here as elsewhere, are the big corporations, through their adroit lawyers and political tools. The leading Democratic newspaper of the State, "The Gazette," of Little Rock, is the subservient tool of the privileged

interests and is in violent opposition to the amendment; and in charming corporation consistency it is chanting the editorials of the Plunderbund organ of the northwest, "The Oregonian" of Portland, against the whole system. Fully two-thirds of the newspapers of the State are silent or in opposition, but the other third are doing fairly good work. Not more than 25 editors are intelligently and valiantly fighting for the amendment.

A good force in the struggle is the influence of Governor Donaghey, who has not only passively but actively supported the Initiative and Referendum throughout his political career. The labor unions give their usual support, but the most potent favorable factor and the one on which victory depends is the Farmers' Union. This organization has over 1,300 local bodies in the State with a large membership. But like all farmers, they are slow to act, and whether they can be stirred into enough activity to win is problematical.

The amendment must receive for its adoption a majority of the votes cast at the election, and the uncast vote may be responsible for its defeat, since the amendment will be supported by at least two to one by the intelligent citizens who vote upon it.

The indications are that it will be adopted or defeated by a narrow margin, and the deciding factor will probably be the effect which the "joker" scare has upon the temperance people.

The Democratic State committee has done nothing for the amendment, nor will, and as far as they are concerned it will be lost in the scramble for office.

GEORGE JUDSON KING.

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**THE INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE  
CONGRESS.**

Antwerp, Belgium.

The second International Free Trade Congress (vol. xii, p. 1153) was held here August 9 to 11. Nearly every important European and many other countries were represented, and of the nearly 700 accredited delegates, about 400 were in attendance. Of Great Britain's 60 or 70 delegates present, at least 20 were representatives of the United Committees for the Taxation of Land Values and of the English and of the Scottish Leagues for the Taxation of Land Values. Those present from the United States included R. R. Bowker, Mr. and Mrs. Louis R. Ehrlich, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fels, Byron W. Holt, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hoopes, Mr. Harvey N. Shepard and daughter.

Papers were presented on six different topics. Dr. Carl von Tyszka, of Germany, discussed price statistics showing the heavy burden that Protection is placing on the working people of Germany. As a result there has been a fall in the per capita consumption of the higher forms of food and an increase in that of the lower forms.

Professor Lujo Brentano, of Munich, made an address, showing that out of 45 millions paid by the German people as increase in food prices only five go to the national revenue, the remaining 40 going to the landed or protected interest. Prices of land have, consequently, risen enormously. Protection,