

made nineteen hundred years after He left, is my best evidence.

GEORGE HUGHES.

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ACCEPTED AFTER TRIAL BY FIRE.

Hon. James G. Maguire in San Francisco Star.

A few days ago I stood and watched one of the linotype assistants filling the crucible or melting pot with discarded type and blocks of type-metal for reduction to the liquid form. The process was simple and the purpose obvious. I had watched it with more or less of curiosity, at different times before, until familiarity had deprived it of interest.

On this occasion, however, as I stood observing the gradual effect of the furnace heat upon the metal, it occurred to me that the process bore a striking resemblance to the formation of public opinion on social and economic questions.

For some time no effect was observable on the metal at the top; then, occasionally (and later frequently) a slight movement of some pieces of metal indicated that something was happening below; then molten metal made its appearance, gradually rising and swallowing and melting all of the solid pieces.

So it is that public opinion is molded. The crystallized minds of men (great and small) must be reduced to harmonious consistency, through the crucible of reason or of some equally controlling agency. The burden is upon the proponents of a new idea, which they seek to have incorporated in our laws, to show, with reasonable certainty that the existing law or condition is wrong and of evil effect; for, if the existing law or condition be right, the reformer should receive scant consideration. The burden is also upon the promoters of the new idea to prove at least that their proposed remedy is apparently right and that it will probably be of good effect. Too many reformers, disregarding these obligations, lead their followers into deadly swamps and quicksands, in pursuit of Jack-o'-lantern lights, which a little unbiased study on their part would have shown to be hopelessly elusive and, probably, false.

It is, therefore, best for all that every new idea should pass through the crucible test; that it should be received, at first, with hostility or indifference and accepted only after its trial by fire. This is the trial through which the single tax movement is now passing. That the furnace heat is reducing the solid and crystallized and hostile and indifferent minds to a harmonious and consistent mass of molten thought, is indicated by the movements here and there upon the surface, as in the type-metal crucible.

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"You say he has untold wealth?"

"Hasn't filed a tax statement for years."—Washington Herald.

PERIODICALS

The Voter.

Henry Barrett Chamberlain has brought *The Voter* (Chicago) forward, in its life of something more than eight years, to a point of more than ordinary efficiency as a political review. Such a publication cannot in the nature of things venture very far ahead of the political procession, but Mr. Chamberlain's instincts are essentially so democratic and his historical sense so loyal, that *The Voter* does not lag behind when the procession moves in the right direction. In the issue for June there is a consideration by William J. Hagenah, of the subject of public utilities. Mr. Chamberlain's "Observations of a Straggler" throws light on the waterway row in Illinois in which Gov. Deneen is conspicuous on one side and Speaker Adkins is autocratic on the other.

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McClure's.

With an extraordinarily faithful portrait of William S. U'Ren in action, for its frontispiece, McClure's for July tells the story of the Oregon movement for People's Power, of which U'Ren has been the leader. Burton J. Hendrick writes this story, under the title of "The Initiative and Referendum and How Oregon Got Them," and with such simple style yet dramatic spirit and loyalty to historic truth as to make it a landmark in the people's movement which, coming up out of the West, is spreading over the country despite all the opposition of civic ignorance and plutocratic conspiracies.—The attachment of Canadians to their responsible system of government, which they rightly regard as superior to our rigid system, is told in the same issue of McClure's by ex-Senator Beveridge.

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The Fathers renounced the King George who taxed them on their tea without their consent. What would they do today when they found that there was a King George in every important industry, taxing the people without representation or consent? A sugar King George, whose sugar puckers a free man's mouth; an oil King George, a very slippery monarch; a coal King George, quite a different fellow from old King Cole, who was a merry old soul; and a whiskey King George, who does not distill the spirit of freedom; and a steel King George, who is a great thief; and a twine King George, who will have rope enough left on hand some day to hang himself with; and so many other King Georges that we begin to understand the ancient fable of the Hydra which got two new heads whenever one was cut off. Washington cut off one head, but King George will not stay killed until it is finally settled in all industry as well as in the industry of government that no human being has a right to share in the product of another's life and labor without his consent, and that there is no consent where there is not a perfect understanding and as perfect freedom to say No as to say Yes, as perfect freedom to withhold as to give.—Henry Demarest Lloyd.