

competent and more independent. The Initiative and Referendum will work vast good, partly for the very reason that they are educational, and the people will never permit this new feature of our Constitution to be eliminated. Thus studying, the people of Oregon will become, if they are not already, the most competent voters in all the country.

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The Fading of Party Lines.

The Milwaukee Journal (Rep.), Aug. 12.—The people of Wisconsin care little for the husks of party names, but they value the substance of political principle. There are thousands of Democrats who are convinced that Senator La Follette is at this time doing a greater service for the State and nation and for the principles of progressive Democracy than could be done even by a Democrat. For he can get a hearing where a like plea from Democratic lips would fall upon deaf ears. It is not a question of party with them. They want results—achievement. They perceive that the Insurgent Republicans are breaking away from the high tariff, monopolistic connection, and service to the special interests, which have made the Republican party the servant of Big Business, and are seeking to restore it to its original mission of "making free men instead of rich." The Insurgent Republicans may not succeed in their efforts to wrench the control of their party from the grasp of the special interests, but whether they succeed or fail, they are loosening the hold of Privilege upon government. They are making inevitable the reduction of the tariff to a basis that will largely, if not wholly, eliminate its monopoly increment. They are compelling a recognition of the fact that the interests of the great body of the people are paramount to the interests of the possessors of a few swollen fortunes. They are making clear the fact that the people may rule if they will cast aside the trammels of party when occasion demands.

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Bryan and Nebraska Politics.

The Commoner (W. J. Bryan), Aug. 5.—The Nebraska Democratic State convention refused, by a vote of 647 to 198, to endorse county option and this has been heralded over the country as a defeat for Mr. Bryan. Let all the facts be known: About May 1, Mr. Bryan urged the calling of a special session of the legislature to submit the initiative and referendum. He stated that by the submission of the initiative and referendum the county option fight could be postponed for two years. He failed to secure the special session. Then he announced himself in favor of an endorsement of county option as the only way to break the hold of the liquor interests and insure the submission of the initiative and referendum. As a result of his fight the Republicans endorsed the initiative and referendum, thus making it certain that it will be submitted at the coming session of the legislature (the Democrats and Populists also having endorsed it). This is a victory for the reform for which he has contended for fourteen years. He can afford to be turned down on county option if he can make sure of the initiative and referendum. But the Democratic convention defeated, by a vote of 638 to 202 a plank declaring against county option, and Gov-

ernor Shallenberger announced at the convention that he would sign a county option bill. Since the Republicans and Populists have declared for county option and the Democrats have refused to declare against it, the chances are largely in favor of the passage of a county option bill. It will be seen, therefore, that Mr. Bryan has reason to rejoice over the progress made in Nebraska. It matters little what is done to him; he can be happy so long as the things he is fighting for win—and they are winning in Nebraska.

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British Politics.

(London) Land Values (Land values taxation. Leading editorial by John Orr), August. It is true that protective countries lessen the volume of their trade by the restrictive impositions on the process of exchange, but it is also true that "free trade" Britain diminishes the volume of her trade by the blighting restrictions which she allows to fall on production, from which all trade springs. No country suffers more in this respect. Production is in the hands of the landowners. The Dukes of Sutherland and Newcastle are in Canada, extending and perfecting there the system of landlordism which they have worked so fully in Britain. There is no security or prosperity for trade with this fatal activity. Trade is inseparable from men and women engaged in work. A fisher gets a footing on a hard rock in the Hebrides, or in Sutherlandshire. He wins fifty barrels of fish to send to the Baltic ports. Something comes back in payment. A farmer gets land enough to raise some beef, mutton, wool and hides. He sends these to the cities, and gets something in return. That is trade. But the Duke of Sutherland, under the government's sanction, comes along and plucks up this whole fruitful growth by the roots. The producers are evicted or squeezed out by rent. The land falls back to a wild state. In this matter no country's trade has been scourged and destroyed like that of Britain. In no country is landlordism more alert, more firm and vicious in its grip. Having been perfected at home, it is transmitted strong and full-grown to the Colonies. Even where land is so abundant, and where industry should be so free it is overtaken and held up by landlordism. There is no rest for the sole of the producer's or trader's feet. He is driven from the land of the dukes in Scotland, England and Ireland, and is set down by the Canadian trains on the land of the same dukes in Canada. This is the only question which will bind the Empire together in substantial unity. How are the different parts to defend themselves against this land system, this common malignant enemy, which is incessant in its attacks on the interests of the Empire, on the lives of nations and individuals? No question appeals to the hard pressed producers and traders at home more than this, none appeals more to the fugitive settlers in the colonies. . . . Every conceivable motive urges us to press immediately towards this one object of breaking the power of land monopoly utterly. To raise as prominently as possible the subject of valuation, to press insistently for its accomplishment, for the early rating and taxation of land values, to possess once again the minds of the people with this great message of hope and salvation—this is work in which everyone can help.