

the ground that the thing asked for was not according to any express law, but partly that the necessary act of the City Clerk in passing upon the validity of the names on the petition was "judicial" and not legislative, and was hence illegal! Until this question is tried out by the State Supreme Court, it would seem that any effort to use the initiative or recall can be blocked in the same way.

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Likewise the city attorneys appointed by the late administration and still in office, seem able to block any aggressive move on the part of the city. So far they have declared illegal what the corporations want declared illegal, and that settles it. The Commissioners seem unable to move after that.

If the city attorneys were really the people's advocates, and a just thing seemed to have legal obstacles, they would say we will test the matter and see if these things are legal. If they lost the suit, they would then prepare a bill to present to the legislature to legalize the right instead of the wrong. A whole city government would have much more influence with a legislature than any group of individuals. But the City Solicitors, like the Federal Supreme Court, take the color of the administration that appoints.

LONA INGHAM ROBINSON.

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PROGRESSIVE POLITICS IN CANADA.

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Manitoba and the Canadian west are not behind in the world movement toward democracy. Many men and forces are at work in various ways, with greater and lesser intelligence, solving the problems that cause social inequality. The election in July saw the return of the Tory administration in this Province, but with a decreased majority, and more hope that four years hence it will be dislodged from its present well fortified position.

Fundamental reformers were particularly interested in the candidature of F. J. Dixon (Manitoba League for Taxation of Land Values) who was the nominee (p. 662) of the Labor party for the constituency of Centre Winnipeg. Dixon, who proved an admirable and powerful candidate, is without doubt the best speaker on any side of politics in Manitoba.

It was our first taste of practical politics. We had much to learn; were defeated, but have nothing to regret. Direct legislation, single tax, and an amendment to the injunction laws in the interest of organized labor, were the issues to which Mr. Dixon confined his fight. When the votes were counted he was 73 low in a ballot of 4,000. Had it not been for a shameless padding of the lists, combined with liquor interest alliance and other tricks, the Opposition would undoubtedly have been successful. We estimate that Mr. Dixon would have won easily with a majority of 300 on a fair list of legitimate voters. However, the campaign was a splendid advertiser and served to bring many fundamental reformers to our support, of whose political views we previously had no suspicion.

During the campaign Mr. F. E. Coulter of Port-

land, Oregon, arrived on the scene and rendered service which proved of exceptional value. He addressed several meetings in the city and then went to the country to help other candidates who stood for direct legislation. From all reports, he captured the farmers in a body.

The Liberal party in this Province espoused the cause of direct legislation, though judging from platform utterances, many of their candidates knew little of its merits and were very timid about making it the paramount issue. The labor unions have endorsed direct legislation as have also the farmers' organizations, which are very strong. In this propaganda we can count upon the support of all the Liberal and independent newspapers, and in addition, the agricultural press. In this way we hope to force the hands of the Government. We will suggest to them a plebiscite upon the question at the opportune moment, as the best way to extricate themselves from an impossible position, and we are reasonably assured of success.

After we have won direct legislation, we propose to devote our energies to the taxation of land values. At the present moment we have in this Province a system of land area taxation, the improvements being exempt in all rural municipalities. Our effort will be to change this to conform to our own views. We will then devote our energies to winning the cities of Winnipeg and Brandon to our idea. Then we shall have a whole Province under the single tax, for whatever Winnipeg and Brandon do, the lesser towns are certain to do. The example of Vancouver (p. 675) is having a wonderful effect in producing converts to the system of municipal single tax.

The Liberal party in Manitoba has of late manifested a desire to become more liberal. This has had a splendid effect. The activities of the farmers' organizations are also very much felt. They stand for public ownership, free trade, direct legislation; and a very large proportion of them, particularly among the leaders of their movement, are fundamental single taxers.

Sir Wilfred Laurier, the premier of the Dominion, in the progress of a tour he has been making throughout the West, has been met by those who voice very radical demands. Everywhere deputation after deputation waited on him asking for legislation which, on the whole, is consistent with the best principles of democracy. Among the demands which some Liberal Associations have made upon the Premier are a request for absolute free trade, taxation of land values, and equal suffrage.

ROBERT LLOYD SCOTT.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

THE SECRET OF A GREAT FORTUNE.

Boston, Mass., Aug. 13.

"White umbrellas and elephants mad with pride are the flowers of a grant of land," in the Orient, and vastly richer equivalents in the Occident.

Col. E. A. Stevens, whose ancestral home at Castle Point, N. J., is one of the most conspicuous places within sight of New York harbor, has just been dividing his vast estate among his heirs, and retaining a