

THE ENERGETIC CITIZEN GETS AN IDEA.

For The Public.

I call him The Energetic Citizen because he undoubtedly possesses much energy, although it is energy which often leads to profanity; because he is a good citizen, rendering services for what services he receives; and, lastly, because I don't know his name.

The Energetic Citizen stopped me on the street by touching me forcibly on the shoulder, and, when I looked into his earnest face, I felt no resentment.

"Say," he exclaimed, "didn't I see you at the Democratic meeting the other night?"

"I was there," I replied, "and it was a good meeting even though Tom L. Johnson was away."

"Oh," said the E. C., "the people'll wake up to Tom L.'s ideas before long. Say, do you know that Perry-Payne vacant land right down town over there on Perry avenue?"

"I have seen it," I replied.

"Say, I wanted to rent a small piece of that land. I'm in the business of buying old boxes, and fixin' 'em up, an' selling them. I make money out of it, but I need more room. I need a lot on which to pile my boxes. It wouldn't hurt the land any more than it hurts this sidewalk for us to stand here—not as much. They don't intend to build, and why shouldn't I use the ground, or a little piece of it, until it is wanted for a building? Answer me that?"

"Unfortunately," I said, "our laws give the owners—"

"Yes, I know," said the E. C. impatiently. "Say, I went up to the Perry-Payne building and told the manager what I wanted, and what rent do you suppose he asked?"

"I give it up," I said. "Probably it was high enough to discourage you."

"Discourage! oh, h—l, I should say so," exclaimed the E. C. "He wanted \$15 a month to start with, just for a small lot that has never been used and that won't be used for years. Say, but I gave him a good shot. 'What you fellows need,' I said, 'is a little dose of the single tax. Then you'd be glad to let me use the land just for the taxes.' 'We don't want the single tax,' said the Perry-Payne manager. 'No, I guess not,' I said, 'nor nothing else that's good for other people.'

"Say," continued the E. C. excitedly, "do you see them one-story buildings over there on land that you couldn't buy at any price? How long do you suppose them buildings would be there if we stopped taxin' buildings? Have you ever thought of that?"

"Having been a single taxer for 25 years, the idea has occurred to me," I replied.

"I'm d—d if it doesn't make me tired," said the

E. C., and I couldn't find it in my heart to condemn his profanity utterly.

HOWARD M. HOLMES.

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FOR A SENATE ELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE.

From the Speech of the Hon. William Sulzer of New York, in the House of Representatives at Washington, May 10, 1910.

The election of United States Senators by the direct vote of the people will be a live question in the coming campaign. I favor this change in the Federal Constitution, as I will every other change that will restore the Government to the control of the people. I want the people, in fact as well as in theory, to rule this great Republic and the government at all times to be directly responsible to their just and reasonable demands.

In my opinion, the people can and ought to be trusted. They have demonstrated their ability for self-government. If the people can not be trusted, then our government is a failure, and the free institutions of the fathers doomed. We must rely on the wisdom and the judgment of the people, and we must legislate in the interests of all the people and not for the benefit of the selfish few.

We witness to-day in the personnel of the United States Senate the supplanting of representative democracy by representative plutocracy. Here Mammon is entrenched. Here the criminal trusts take their stand and defy the people. Here is the last bulwark of the predatory few. Here is the citadel of the unscrupulous monopolies. And more and more the special interests of the country, realizing the importance of the Senate, are combining their forces to control the election of Federal Senators through their sinister influence in State legislatures. Forty-six United States Senators can prevent the enactment of a good law or the repeal of a bad law. The United States Senate is the most powerful legislative body in the world, and its members should be elected by the people of the country just the same as the Representatives in Congress are elected. This is of the utmost importance to the rank and file, because when the Senate is directly responsible to the people, they will control it; and then, and not till then, will that august body respond to the will of the people.

This is a government of the people. The people seldom err. The people can be trusted. I am opposed to delegating away the rights of the people, and where they have been delegated away I would restore them to the people. I trust the people, and I believe in the people. I believe that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and hence I want to restore to the people the right now delegated to

the legislatures by the framers of the Constitution, so that the Senate as well as the House will be directly responsible to the people and the government become more and more a representative democracy, where brains, fitness, honesty, ability, experience, and capacity, and not ostentatious wealth and corporate subserviency, shall be the true qualifications for the upper branch of the Federal legislature. . . .

Do not be deceived; make no mistake; this reform is growing in favor with the people every year and is destined to become more and more popular until in the near future it will be adopted. Already 27 States have passed joint resolutions through their respective legislatures demanding this change in the Federal Constitution. These States are Pennsylvania, Indiana, Texas, California, Nevada, Missouri, Nebraska, Arkansas, Wyoming, North Carolina, Illinois, Colorado, Louisiana, Kansas, Montana, Wisconsin, Oregon, Michigan, Tennessee, Idaho, South Dakota, Washington, Utah, Kentucky, Minnesota, Iowa, and Oklahoma.

The action of these 27 States of the Union demanding this change in the Federal Constitution, so that the people shall have the right to vote directly for Senators in Congress, should be conclusive, and must impress Senators who are doing all in their power to prevent the enactment of this law that patience has almost ceased to be a virtue, and unless they take heed in time these States and some of the other States favorable to this reform will ere long call a constitutional convention on their own initiation to amend the Constitution in accordance with the wishes of the people. The people are in earnest in this matter and any attempt to thwart their will in this reform will only hasten its consummation.

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Resolution Offered by Mr. Sulzer.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following amendment be proposed to the legislatures of the several States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said legislatures, shall become and be a part of the Constitution, namely: In lieu of the first and second paragraphs of section 3 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America the following shall be proposed as an amendment to the Constitution:

"Sec. 3. First. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, who shall be elected by a direct vote of the people thereof for a term of six years, and each Senator shall have one vote. A plurality of the votes cast for candidates for Senator shall elect, and the electors shall have the qualifications for electors of the most numerous branch of the legislature.

"Second. When vacancies happen, by resignation or otherwise, in the representation of any State in the Senate, the same shall be filled for the unexpired term thereof in the same manner as is provided for

the election of Senators in paragraph 1: Provided, That the executive thereof shall make temporary appointment until the next general or special election held in accordance with the statutes or constitution of such State."

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as a part of the Constitution.

BOOKS

A QUESTION.

Why Not Now? By Charles Gilbert Davis, M. D. Boston: Richard G. Badger, the Gorham Press. Price 75 cents.

In eight chapters Mr. Davis gives us some sharp photographic views of the present state of American national affairs which, though rather pessimistic, reveal the time, place and opportunity to make corrections. Nothing more trenchant and true has been said in so few words on the subjects of "Woman Suffrage," "The Tariff," "Race Prejudice," "Alcohol," "Public Ownership," etc., etc. The opposing argument of conservatism tumbles before the radical onslaught of truth that cannot be denied, and we admit, with the author, "we have arrived at the parting of the ways."

And here comes the question, Who shall lead in the triumphal march to peace and brotherhood? "Why not America? Why not now?"

A. L. M.

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A PERSONIFICATION OF CAPITALISM.

Prince Hagan, a Phantasy. By Upton Sinclair. Chicago: Chas. H. Kerr & Co. Price, \$1.

The "Idealist," camping out in the mountains on a warm mid-summer day, is scanning a score of Wagner's "Das Rheingold," and recalling the legend of the Nibelungs and the Magic Ring. He falls into a dream and is mysteriously transported to the underground caverns of gold where King Alberich reigns. Here everything happens to the marvelous music, and with the scenic effects, which, he is told, Wagner stole bodily from Nibelheim, and he is conducted by King Alberich and his courtiers through passages and vaults of carved and beaten gold until he begs to be relieved from the contemplation of such vast treasures.

The upshot of this adventure is the charge of young Prince Hagan, who is sent to be trained and educated in the ways of the world as typified in the social and political customs of New York City.

The sagacious youth, already well advanced in the nefarious arts of dishonesty, proves an extraordinarily apt pupil in the school of underhanded and dishonorable dealing, and quickly out-