

escape, they were given it as embodying the future of the race, as being more important than men. What reason is there in sex that Mrs. Isidor Straus should not have a vote, while her husband had? And the women who left the boat for the families, while the men died, went forth to duties more onerous than dying.



#### Senator Bourne's Defeat.

The Chicago Record-Herald, April 29.—Certain newspapers are having much "fun" with Senator Bourne of Oregon, who has been defeated for renomination by a Portland merchant named Selling. Bourne has been an ardent champion of the Oregon style of pure or untrified democracy, and has eloquently held his State up as a model and exemplar. He has been a hard and faithful worker, and the position he took with reference to another term was most creditable to him. He told his people that the office must seek him and that they must deal with his claims on the record he has made and the valuable experience he has acquired. He stuck to his place in the Senate chamber and made no personal campaign. Perhaps Senator Bourne feels that pure democracies are as ungrateful at times as the mixed varieties. It does not appear, however, that his defeat at the advisory and morally binding primary was also a defeat for radicalism and the Oregon ideas. The voters stand pat, but they prefer another exponent and representative. Possibly they sought to boost the idea that active men of affairs are wanted in Congress. Again, perhaps Mr. Bourne's notions of passive candidacies are too utopian even for advanced sociological laboratories. More light is needed—in the interest of other radical candidates as well as of candid history.



#### Is It a Lost Opportunity?

The Boston Common (Ind.), April 13.—Colonel Bryan, we think, is right in his belief that if Theodore Roosevelt, when some of his friends were plotting to use Robert M. La Follette's honest candidacy as a decoy movement, and were seizing upon La Follette's temporary illness from overstrain as a pretext for throwing him over, had courageously come to La Follette's assistance and used in his behalf the energy which Roosevelt is now expending upon his own candidacy, it would have been better for Roosevelt and better for the Progressive movement.



#### Headway in Equitable Taxation.

The Houston (Texas) Chronicle, Feb. 22.—The reassessment of Houston's taxable property under the Somers system has so far advanced that it is known the total assessable values reported for taxation will advance from \$77,000,000 for 1911 to at least \$100,000,000, and possibly as high as \$120,000,000, for 1912. It is known that in 1912, for the first time, land values in Houston will be assessed on an equitable basis. It is known that for the first time the main weight of taxes will rest not upon small owners of home properties, but upon large owners of lands whose sale value is constantly and rapidly increasing by reason of the increasing demand for such lands for commercial use. It is

known, in a word, that for the first time in Houston the tax-taker will collect for community uses a considerable portion of that new value which community growth has added and is adding, without effort on the part of owners, to the value of such lands. It is known that the erection of commercial buildings on valuable lands hitherto held unimproved will be necessary, in order that the owners may not lose money by reason of the largely increased tax valuations placed on such lands. It is known that citizens who erect such buildings, whether stores, factories or homes, will not hereafter be assessed upon them for more than one-third of their construction cost. Takers of unearned increment will be taxed increasingly, and two-thirds of the building tax burden will be taken off enterprising citizens who make unearned increment for the unenterprising. The Chronicle believes this system should be adopted by Harris county. We believe that if our vast area of idle farm land, most of it help speculatively for an unearned rise in value, were to be assessed as much per acre as cultivated farm lands, the owners of such unimproved lands would be forced either to put them into cultivation, or to sell them at fair prices and on easy terms to land-hungry poor men who would bring them into cultivation. Would not this be desirable? Would it not be good for Houston, and for a very great majority of all the people of Harris county? Would it not, by rapidly increasing Harris county's acreage in cultivation, increase the commerce of this city, afford employment to many additional hands, and pour into all the channels of business a new flood of wealth? We believe it would, and we recommend to County Judge Amerman and his associates, or to their successors if the present commissioners do not wish to undertake it on the eve of quitting office, that they study what the City Commission has done with the Somers system, and adopt it for the county.



#### Back from the Farm.

The (Portland, Ore.) Labor Press, March 16.—"Back to the farm," and "get out of the cities," is easy to write and easy to read. How much of a farm can a workingman buy if he gets steady work for a year at an average of \$3 a day and saves half of it? How many with a family can save a tenth of it? How many obtain steady employment at any such wage? If they do, then why give up a steady job for a chance at a new occupation they know little about and have but limited capital to put into it? Any five-acre plot that will come anywhere near supporting a family after two or three years of cultivation and preparation will cost from \$1,000 up to \$3,000. The further away from civilization the more land it requires, and the lower the price per acre. In the long run the distant and "cheap" land is the dearest in price, opportunities and location considered. The land monopolist in the country is just as exacting and inhospitable as he is in the city. How long will it be at an average saving of \$30 a month, and many farm hands in the eastern States do not get \$20, to secure the \$1,000, or more, necessary to start in? Why should some one who has not worked for it get this capital, when secured, for merely getting out of the way?