

trying ordeal and proved her right to their confidence and encouragement. Let their press and people consequently stop assuming a patronizing air toward Cuba. Let them forget the bogies of revolution and intervention, and show to Cuba a helping and generous attitude in her future efforts to maintain peace and stability. Let them in this crisis manifest their appreciation of Cuba's good points and be sympathetic toward her natural and excusable shortcomings of national youth instead of appearing to her as unappreciative and unsympathetic. If they do these things now they will take a long step forward not only in helping Cuba but in winning the confidence and esteem of all Latin America—today our greatest opportunity in developing both comity and commerce with foreign lands." [See current volume, page 1067.]

## PRESS OPINIONS

### Michigan's Singletax Governor.

Detroit Saturday Night (ind.), Nov. 9.—In the election of Ferris for Governor the people of Michigan are unusually fortunate. Ferris is a radical, but he is not a fool. He is direct in every thought and action. He is straightforward. He is honest. He has a brain that works alertly and evenly. He has business experience as well as long experience as an educator. And he will have a legislature that ought to be fairly well balanced and responsive. We hope for great things for Michigan from the Ferris administration.



### Socialism in Congress.

Kansas City Star (ind.), Nov. 8.—A phenomenon of our representative government is that the Socialist Party has lost its one representative in Congress, although the Socialist vote of the country is approximately twice what it was when Mr. Berger was elected. Mr. Berger's one district illustrates the same peculiarity. His vote was not diminished, but where, in 1910 his opposition was divided, in 1912 it was united. Congressman Victor Berger made an admirable record in his two years of service. The only Socialist in Congress, or in other national office, he commanded respect for his intelligence, his fidelity to the principles he believed in, and his patriotism. Socialism as a political and economic force in America has gained a fairer hearing because of the fine character of Victor Berger.



### From the Inside.

The (St. Louis) Mirror (William M. Reedy), Nov. 7.—Here in Missouri a few of us have been striving for a millennial measure of reform—the Singletax. What did we get? Eggs in the ultimate of senescence. Eggs so old they might be Macaulay's "Lays of Ancient Rome." Eggs that would cause the pensive polecat to sigh, "What's the use?" . . . The farmer worried us most—the dear, the honest farmer. What was he going to do? "Just you wait and see. The farmer is intelligent. More so than you give him credit. He's no fool. He knows what's

what." That's the way the "argifying" went. The farmer was going to vote with us. Of course. . . . Strange to say, he did—with all of us—unless we were singletaxers. Same thing with Labor. It voted on all sides. What a lot of hideous pragmatists we all were! We never reckoned that any class of men would vote any other way than as their pocket nerve dictated. . . . Fact is, as most of us suspect, now that the trouble's over, most people voted the way they did for reasons they could not explain, but from a conviction, however dim and confused, that they were doing the best thing for the country, regardless of their private interests.



### Untaxing Buildings.

McKees' Rocks (Pa.) Herald (ind.), July 26.—The proposition to decrease the assessment of buildings is an excellent one. . . . The present plan encourages men to hold their property idle, or at least not to improve it the way it should be. . . . If we were to reduce the assessment of buildings to 50 per cent, or 30 per cent of their value, it would necessarily increase the millage. . . . This would not affect property holders who have improved their lots, and for that reason are getting an income, because not only are they able to pay an increased millage, but they will be better off by reason of the saving of taxes due to the lessening or lowering of assessment of their buildings. . . . The small home owner would not be harmed, for as a general rule, the valuation of a man's lot is from a thousand to fifteen hundred dollars, and the valuation of a building is from two to four thousand dollars. . . . How would it be with the holders of vacant building sites? They would not have this advantage, as their valuation would remain the same and their millage would be largely increased, and they would be forced to throw their property upon the market for whatever price they could secure. And why should they not do this? The large estates which now hold vacant land in built-up communities have no moral right to keep this land out of use. . . . Their vacant holdings are increasing in value right along, and this increased valuation is a pure gift from the community. . . . The main result of thus throwing land upon the market at a reduced price would be that the undertaking of building would be greatly encouraged instead of encouraging men to hold their land idle. . . . The Pittsburgh Civic Commission has recommended that the legislature adopt a gradual reduction at the rate of 10 per cent a year for five years on the assessment of buildings in second-class cities, and no doubt the legislature this winter will pass such a bill.



There is some talk of extending the recall movement to the umpires when the local baseball season opens.—Los Angeles Times.



"I suppose you need plenty of friends to become a Senator?"

"Not exactly," replied the newly-elected one. "A few friends with plenty of money will do the trick."—Puck.