

to understand it in Australia, and the radicals of all parties put the Labor party with its program of the land for the people into power. They begin to understand it in Great Britain, and the Labor party, the Irish democrats, and the radical Liberals co-operate to pass a Budget calculated to secure the land for the people. We are beginning to understand it here, and the time may not be far away when democratic voters of all parties will ask in deadly political earnest, why the mines, the city sites, the agricultural soils, the railroad ways, the water power, the forests, and all other kinds of land in this Republic, are monopolized by some of its citizens while the rest are trespassers in the country of their birth.

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Socialists in Office.

Mr. Seidel, the Socialist mayor of Milwaukee (pp. 386, 392), together with his party associates in the board of aldermen, are showing a better appreciation of the essentials for good government than professed "good government" movements have ever shown. The idea of non-partisanship or bi-partisanship has prevailed in those movements, with the effect of destroying party responsibility, and, instead of putting an end to graft, of merely shifting it to "better people" in subtler ways and enveloping it in an odor of respectability. But the Milwaukee Socialists do not dispense with party responsibility. They make it responsible. Nor do they treat public office as a party spoil. The offices that determine policies, they fill with none but trusted partisans; those that are charged with the details of execution, they try to fill with experts regardless of party affiliation or social class, of nativity or present place of abode. This is the true principle of public service.

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Frances Margaret Milne.

When Mrs. Milne died, a long and useful educational service as librarian of the public library at San Luis Obispo, California, came to an end, and the voice of a singer whose poems exalted humanity was silenced. She died at San Luis Obispo, on the 21st. A sympathetic review of her life and work has been announced to appear in the San Francisco Star of the 30th, which is on its eastward way as we write. It was through the Star, that moral oasis in the desert of San Francisco journalism, that most of her verses were published first. One of Henry George's earliest disciples, she was his personal friend while he lived

and a gentle teacher of his message to the close of her own life. We reprint in our department of Related Things this week her appreciative lines on the death of William T. Croasdale, who saw the same vision that lighted her pathway, and followed it as faithfully. What she wrote of him might be written of herself, except that he died at the maturity of his powers whereas she came to those years of life at which it may be said she had finished her course.

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The Lorimer Scandal.

Senator Lorimer attributes the charges of bribery in connection with his election as United States Senator to a conspiracy to destroy the new bank and trust company which he is about establishing in Chicago. This is probably no very wild guess. There are financial combines in Chicago which "make no bones" of getting outsiders out of their way without much compunction as to the use of means. John R. Walsh (p. 85) in his prison cell probably knows this now. It is common talk at any rate that it was not for his crime—for such crimes as his are common enough, we are told, in banking circles—but because he was somehow in the way, that bank examiners "happened" to be obtrusive at an inopportune moment for Mr. Walsh. Senator Lorimer may also have got in the way with his two new financial institutions, and it is well to bear this in mind. But of course, the real question in his case as in Walsh's, is not why criminality is exposed, if criminality exists, but whether it does exist. Though Senator Lorimer is accused of what might, though true, have been kept secret if he had stayed out of the banking business and been graciously serviceable all round; yet, inasmuch as he is accused, the merit and not the motive of the accusation is the question before the house. If the accusation is false, let us hope it will react on those making it. If it is true, let us hope it will grow beyond the peradventure of factional compromises and mutual suppressions. When Frank Comerford, amazed at the corruption he found in the Illinois legislature, spoke his mind, the rascals expelled him (vol. vii, pp. 705, 713), and upon his reelection they kept him out of his seat (vol. viii, p. 9). In all of which they had the sympathy of that class of "good people" in whom Lincoln Steffens thinks he has found "some good." Now that one of the legislative rascals has told a story of corruption, it may be—whether the story is true or not—that crimination and recrimination will yield better results. For it is clear enough,