

**New Crystallizations in Politics.**

One of the results of the defeat of the Standpatters regarding the pooling and merger clauses of President Taft's railway bill noted above, was a definite and formal organization on the 4th of the Standpat Senators, or "regular" Republicans, for a political war of extermination against the Insurgent Republicans. Senator Aldrich is the leader of this caucus organization, and President Taft is reported to approve the movement. The Standpatters claim 47 Republican Senators for their "regular" organization.

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The Insurgents also have organized a Senatorial caucus. They deny that there are as many as 47 Republicans in the other caucus.

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Regarding these two Senatorial organizations within the Republican party, a staff correspondent of the Chicago Tribune makes this reasonable report upon its significance:

The situation in the Senate has reached the stage of that in the House just prior to the overthrow of Speaker Cannon. Either Insurgency is destined to receive a serious blow, or the leaders of the body are doomed to overthrow. It is a realization of the imminence of the decisive battle that has caused Aldrich and his lieutenants to attempt to make a compact organization which will fight to the last ditch and give no quarter. Defeat will mean an Insurgent triumph of greater significance than that which was achieved in the House.

The President's program is the immediate issue, but back of that the Standpat Republicans are believed to be fighting consciously for political life.

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**Women's Suffrage in Congress.**

Through Senator Owen of Oklahoma, on the 4th, a memorial asking legislation favoring women's suffrage and replying to President Taft's objection that the franchise might be monopolized by an undesirable class (pp. 361, 366) was presented in the Senate of the United States. The petition, which is signed by the officers of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, asks Congress to submit to the States an amendment to the Constitution securing voting rights to women. It was ordered printed and referred to the committee on woman suffrage. The reasons for asking the franchise for women are thus enumerated in the memorial, as reported in the Washington dispatches: The women of the United States are citizens of the United States, entitled by nature to an equal right to enjoy the opportunities of life; they perform half the work of the United States; they bear all of the children of the United States; they educate these children; they inculcate in these children lessons of morality,

religion, industry, civic righteousness, and civic duty; they deserve to be honored by the children of the country as entitled to equal dignity and honor possessed by men; they pay half of the taxes of the United States; they possess half of the property of the United States, or at least they are entitled to possess half of the property of the United States by virtue of labor performed and duty well done. Of President Taft's objection the memorial asks, "Will you suggest that good women will not vote and bad women will vote?" and this is its answer: "This untrue and unkind suggestion has been answered by history, which demonstrates that the same percentage of women votes as men and that the vote of undesirable women is a negligible quantity. Women are not to be regarded as bringing to suffrage a preponderance of evil. Their vote has brought to the use of the State an important influence in the interest and well being of children, new and stronger laws for the protection and advancement of the interests of children, new and better laws for the preservation of the public health, new and better laws for decency in administration and the beautifying of cities, and more worthy candidates by all parties are offered where women vote."

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**Political Co-operation of Trade Unions and Farmers' Unions.**

The executive committee of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union (p. 421), in session at St. Louis on the 5th, after a four days' conference with Samuel Gompers and other leaders in the American Federation of Labor, unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

1. As far as the constitution and charter of the Farmers' Union permits, we pledge to our fellow workers in industrial pursuits our best efforts to the end that their rights and liberties, with our own, shall be preserved.

2. Our officers are authorized and directed to confer with the officers of bona fide organized labor organizations to this end.

3. We pledge ourselves to give preference to the products of the industrial workers who manifest their intelligence to protect themselves by organization and urge reciprocal purchase of products of union farmers.

4. Our legislative committees are pledged to cooperate with the similar officers and committees of organized labor to secure such relief and reformatory legislation as may be necessary to conserve the rights and freedom to which the workers as men and citizens are entitled under the Constitution of the United States.

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**An Embryonic Single Tax Party.**

A call for a convention at New York City, the 21st, for the purpose of organizing a Single Tax political party, has been issued by some of the New York advocates of the single tax upon land

values as proposed by Henry George. The signers of the call declare that they—

believe that a number of reasons now exist for the formation of a single tax political party, as follows:

1. The world-wide interest excited by the recent English campaign against the privileged classes, for the taxation of land values.
2. The movement for the conservation of natural resources.
3. The cost of living agitation, which involves the basic economic question of an equitable exchange of labor values under free conditions.
4. The concentration of privilege; and the ever clearer confrontation of the exploiters and the exploited, now gradually marshalling themselves in the consciousness of the people into two sharply defined and hostile camps.
5. The great social unrest.
6. The increasing demand for woman suffrage, which cannot be dissociated from any movement in behalf of economic progress.
7. The complete discrediting of the Democratic and Republican machines, not only because of their corruption and of their failure to frame vital party issues, but also more especially because, being notoriously controlled by Privilege, their platforms do not respond to the demand of an aroused people for adequate social solutions.
8. The failure of all existing parties to present to the people the first true step of an economic revolution, namely, the land for the people.
9. The loss of confidence by the people in proprietary third parties.
10. The incompleteness of purely propaganda methods, and of diluted and inexplicit political efforts for the dissemination and the effectuation of our principles.

The call thereupon proceeds:

Convinced therefore that the "psychological moment" has now arrived for an American Single Tax Party, both for propaganda and for practical purposes, we beg to notify you that if you are among those who agree with this opinion, you are invited to join with us in participating in the first convention of such a party, to be held at W. T. U. L., 43 East 22d street, Manhattan, New York City, on Saturday, May 21, 1910, at 10 a. m., for the purpose of organizing the same, of choosing its name, of deciding upon its tactics and propaganda methods, and of framing a call to all opponents of special privilege to unite with us in restoring to the people the opportunities that belong to the people.

Following are the signers under whose names the above call is issued:

John Filmer, Jerome O'Neill, Antonio Bastida, Joseph Dana Miller, Joseph F. Darling, Gustave Bassler, George A. Hang, John H. Kelly, B. T. Sample, Robt. Poock, Bernard McKiernan, James F. Morton, Jr., Maud Malone, Elizabeth B. Fern, John T. McRoy, Jens Peter Hansen, Mary Dixon Jenson, Edw. Ernst Nobis, Henry W. Mitchell, William J. Wallace, Chas. LeBaron Goeller, Thomas F. Lewis, John Cooke, George L. Fallon, Wm. F. Casey, Amy Mall Hicks, David Littlejohn, Rosalie Jonas, George Wallace, A.

G. Sullivan, E. F. Greene, C. H. Kavanagh, A. L. Graham.

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**Serious Earthquakes in Costa Rica.**

Earthquake shocks destructive to property, but not involving loss of life, were reported from Costa Rica three weeks ago (p. 369). At that time San José, the capital city of this little, most southern of the Central American republics, chiefly suffered. On the night of the 4th the ancient capital city of Cartago, lying fourteen miles from San José, was not only thrown into ruins, but about 1,500 of its 10,000 inhabitants were killed. Cartago was Costa Rica's oldest city, and had been its capital until 1823. It has suffered frequently from earthquakes and was partially or in greater part destroyed in 1723, 1803, 1825, 1841, 1851 and 1854. To these earlier earthquakes the picturesque city owes its decline. Among its present ruins is the beautiful "peace palace" erected by Carnegie. Later shocks have followed the first, most terrible one, and some smaller towns have since been jarred into ruins, so that to its frightened inhabitants the whole little country has seemed to be rocking. Great suffering from the stricken districts is reported. The government is doing what it can, and Red Cross relief is being sent from the United States.

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**The Anti-Imperialists Honor Mark Twain.**

The Executive Committee of the Anti-Imperialist League, meeting in Boston on the 5th, passed the following minute, to be entered on its records, and communicated to the family of the late Mark Twain (pp. 385, 395):

In the death of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, an honored Vice-President of the League, the loss to the nation's gaiety is even less than the loss to mankind of one who zealously advocated justice and liberty and from whom public and private wrong met stern rebuke.

The basis of Mr. Clemens' humor and the sport of his lighter vein were that sense of proportion which enabled him to see clearly and to expose with force and vigor all such violations of it as that which the League strives to amend—the subjugation by a democratic Republic of an alien people. He made exceedingly valuable contributions to the cause, and some of the most pungent and convincing words in its behalf were those written for the enlightenment of "the person sitting in darkness" upon the gratuitous inconsistency of our seizure of the Philippines.

The Executive Committee, in recording its own sorrow, extends its condolence in their bereavement to the family and friends of Mr. Clemens.

MOORFIELD STOREY, President. ERVING WINSLOW, Secretary.

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Soil, with or without plowing, is the gift of God.—Thomas Carlyle.