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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:

Congressional Candidates of the Right Type.....	721
Election in Chicago	722
The New York Campaign	722
Woman Suffrage in New York	722
Secretary Shaw's Delusion	723
Is There Another Law for the Rich?.....	723
Corrupt Journalism	723
The Political Issue of To-Day (Oberg).....	723

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE:

Woman Suffrage in New York (Malone).....	725
The New York Election	726
The Detroit Election (Grenell)	726
Cleveland Traction (Luther)	726

NEWS NARRATIVE:

Denial and Affirmation of the Monroe Doctrine.....	728
The Coming Elections	729
New York Politics	729
Newspapers and Education in Chicago.....	729
Development in Public School Affairs in Chicago.....	729
Condition of Mrs Eddy	730
The Passing of the Salton Sea	730
The Starved Out Utes	730
Municipal Upheaval in San Francisco	730
The Japanese Incident	731
Persia's New National Assembly	731
Russia	731
The British House of Lords in the Balance.....	731
News Notes	732
Press Opinions	733

RELATED THINGS:

When Wilt Thou Save the People? (verse).....	733
The Indians Are Not Dying Out	733
The Initiative and Referendum (Bigelow).....	734
Mayor Johnson's Way	734
An Important Campaign Issue (Shibley).....	735
Ernest Crosby on Hearst	736
Who Made Hearst Possible? (Newton).....	736
At the Club (verse)	739

BOOKS:

An Argument for To-Day	740
Books Received	742
Pamphlets	742
Periodicals	742

CARTOON:

The New Method of Killing	742
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EDITORIAL

Congressional Candidates of the Right Type.

At the election next week several Congressional candidates will be voted for whose democratic Democracy makes their election extremely desirable at this time of political stress and change. Robert Baker of New York is at the head of the

list. He has had experience in the House; he has proved his singlemindedness in office, and demonstrated at heavy cost that he has the full courage of his convictions; and through his alert and able services and his successful assault upon the railroad-pass abuse, he has won national distinction for disinterested devotion to the public welfare. He has won the Democratic nomination at the primaries against the opposition of "Boss" McCarren; he has been nominated also by the Independence League, although the League refused its support to every other Democratic candidate in Brooklyn, and he is endorsed by the Prohibition party. His chances of election, notwithstanding that his district is heavily Republican, are regarded as more than favorable.

✦

Next in importance to Congressman Baker we should place ex-Gov. Lucius F. C. Garvin of the second district of Rhode Island. In naming Gov. Garvin as second, we intend no invidious personal distinction. Our allusion is only to the fact that he has not seen service in Congress. But he is a thorough Democrat in the generic sense, his personal qualities are of the highest order, and the ability as well as the disinterestedness of his public service has been proved by an experience of 18 years in both houses of the Rhode Island legislature and of two terms in the gubernatorial chair. He would adorn as well as help to purify the national House of Representatives.

✦

Owing to the nomination by the Democrats of the nineteenth district of Pennsylvania of a brevet-Republican (p. 434), Warren Worth Bailey has been put forward as an independent candidate. Mr. Bailey has won his way to recognition far beyond the confines of his home State by the publication of a daily paper, the Johnstown Democrat, which may fairly be mentioned with the Springfield Republican as among the few really good newspapers of the country. While a Democratic party paper editorially, the Johnstown Democrat has never shrunk from its responsibility as a leader in democratic Democracy. Neither will its editor if elected to Congress.

✦

The traction issue in Detroit, an account of which appears in Editorial Correspondence in another column, is at such heat that the courageous

campaign for Congress of Frederick F. Ingram (p. 507) against the odds of 8,000 Republican majority is overshadowed in the newspaper reports. Mr. Ingram is a manufacturer in Detroit, whose Democracy is so democratic that it yields neither to the demands of predatory business interests nor the domination of political bosses. He is making an aggressive campaign, in which he is spreading democratic ideas of the kind that take root and bear fruit abundantly when they fall upon good ground. His presence in Congress would add greatly to the force of the coterie of genuine democrats who are likely to be elected next week.

*

In Philadelphia Frank Stephens, the single tax leader there for many years, has been nominated for Congress by the Democrats of the second Pennsylvania district. The fact of his nomination by regular Democrats of Philadelphia is almost equal to positive proof that there is no chance of his election. But in this case, as it often happens in others, the little tin gods may have made one of their little mistakes. At any rate Mr. Stephens is a man of power and direct purpose. His loyalty to principle would make him seem in Congress like fresh air in a charnel house.

*

Another Congressional candidate who belongs in the group we are indicating is Frank J. Buchanan (pp. 434, 506) of the Seventh Illinois, a Chicago district. Mr. Buchanan was president of the Structural Iron Workers' International Union at the time of the struggle to rid that organization of the methods of Sam Parks, and was himself the successful leader in that struggle. Mr. Buchanan also is a democratic Democrat.

*

Other Congressional candidates of the same type are James K. McGuire, for three years Mayor of Syracuse, New York, who runs in the Syracuse district, and Charles L. Young and James T. McDermott of Chicago.

* *

Election in Chicago.

Some of the candidates on the Democratic ticket in Chicago are good men, and some were nominated fairly at the primaries—men like G. Charles Griffiths, for instance, the candidate for superintendent of county schools, and Hiram T. Gilbert, candidate for chief justice of the municipal courts. Among these are men who have rendered excellent special service—men like

Aldermen Dever, Werno, and Zimmer. No citizen will make a personal mistake by voting for these men. But the general situation seems such as to demand, what in ordinary circumstances might not be the best thing—a straight vote. The Republican ticket, despite some good men upon it, represents nothing whatever but greed for official power to be used for despotic ends. The Democratic ticket, notwithstanding its quota of some good men, represents nothing but copartnership relations with all that is worst in the Republican party. If there were a more liberal ballot law in Illinois, the Independence League could and doubtless would have endorsed the best men otherwise nominated, and by placing their names in the Independence League column on the ballot would have minimized "straight" voting. But the "bosses'" law of Illinois forbids the printing of the same name in more than one column on the ballot. Under these circumstances the best way for the individual voter to condemn both corrupt parties and their tricky ballot law is by voting the ticket of the Independence League.

* *

The New York Campaign.

As the New York campaign has progressed, the fact that Hearst is unanimously opposed by the very worst classes in the community has become more and more evident. Many genuine Democrats also are opposing him, and for good reasons. Many cambric handkerchief goo-goos oppose him for dainty reasons. But the more vigorous and united opposition comes from the great sharks. Name any rich man who preys upon his fellow men, from Dunkirk to Riverhead, and without further inquiry you may class him with the Hughes crowd. That ought to be enough. No matter what one may think of Hearst, there is little room for choice between the crowd he is leading and the one that is pushing Hughes. Judge Grosscup was nearer right than usual when he said that Hearst and Hughes stand for the same things, but the followers of both believe that Hearst will do them and Hughes won't. It may be that the Hearst following will go down in defeat next Tuesday. Should that be the result, it will be less of a rebuke to Hearst than to the forward movement he personifies at this moment in New York; less a victory for Hughes than for the parasites who surround him.

* *

Woman Suffrage in New York.

The straw votes of the Harlem Equal Rights League of New York (vol. viii. p. 485), to be