

The Public

**A National Journal of Fundamental Democracy &
A Weekly Narrative of History in the Making**

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EDITORIAL

Which?

Mr. Taft doesn't like "muckraking." Does he prefer "whitewashing"?

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A Sample.

Direct Legislation, the Recall, and Woman Suffrage, have already "put a damper on business activities in the Golden State," says a veracious sojourner from that region. He doesn't specify, but it is easy to understand that any effective method of giving voice to public opinion might put a damper on some kinds of "business activities"—the "white slave" traffic, for instance.

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Constitutional Convention in Ohio.

Before another issue of The Public reaches its readers, the delegates to the Constitutional convention of Ohio will have been elected. In this contest the Initiative and Referendum is the absorbing issue. It is "the question now before the house" in Ohio. To attempt to secure definite representation in that convention on any other question is to imperil the other and this one too.

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That is one of the disadvantages of unrestrained representation. If you elect a representative who represents you on some things, you may find him only lukewarm or indeed hostile on others. There-

fore at every election the voter must decide, not what is the most important question in itself, but what is the most important question on which the voters are dividing on that occasion. Just as in a parliamentary body you must discuss and vote upon, not the question you prefer but "the question before the house," so must you do at elections—except in States where they have the Initiative and Referendum. With those adjuncts to representative government, the personal opinions of representatives are of less importance than their abilities and character; for in so far as a representative believes with you he will represent you, and in so far as he does not represent you, you can control him if you are in the majority.

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In Ohio at this election the Interests are naturally enough opposed to the Initiative and Referendum. It would be a death blow to them. Their organization in that State—the Ohio State Board of Commerce, managed by Allen Ripley Foote, as deft a lobbyist as ever fooled the innocent while turning legislative tricks for monopoly corporations—is working hard to defeat Initiative and Referendum candidates for the Convention. Reports indicate that Mr. Foote's plans will not succeed at the polls, but nobody can tell how an election has gone till the votes are counted. It is important, therefore, to every voter in Ohio who believes in the Initiative and Referendum that he vote for delegates pledged to this reform. It is also important that he vote for such delegates as are honestly in favor of it, and not for such as take the pledge with a mental reservation. In large cities this discrimination may be difficult. We therefore name the candidates for delegate from Cleveland and Cincinnati who may be absolutely relied upon by believers in the Initiative and Referendum:

Cleveland: Halloran D. Banks, Robert Crosser, William C. Davio, Edward W. Doty, John D. Fackler, Thomas S. Farrell, Thomas G. Fitzsimons, Aaron Hahn, Daniel E. Leslie and Stephen S. Stilwell.

Cincinnati: Stanley E. Bowdle, Henry Cordes, William P. Halenkamp, George W. Harris, John C. Hoffmann, Hiram D. Peck, Starbuck Smith, E. E. Williamson, and Herbert S. Bigelow.

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Three-cent Fares in Cleveland.

A correspondent who encloses a clipping regarding the traction question in Cleveland, from the editorial columns of the New York Times of October 25th, asks: "Is this really the best that can be said of the scheme, or is it another piece of

misrepresentation of the Times?" The clipping referred to states that—

in Cleveland there is now a monthly deficit of \$60,000, and the \$800,000 compulsory interest fund has shrunk to \$500,000, with the result that fares must be raised after an interval which can be learned by a simple calculation.

The answer to our correspondent's question is that this is "another piece of misrepresentation of the Times."

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Evidently the misrepresentation is purposeful and deliberate. In stating that fares must soon be raised, the Times does so in a manner to create the false impression that the raise must be permanent and from three cents to five cents. The fact is that three cent fares, with one cent for transfers, is proved by the Cleveland system to pay even under thriftless management; and that three cents, with free transfers, appears not to pay under such management. That is the whole story, as any one can ascertain and as the Times doubtless knows. In larger detail the story is told at page 1092 of The Public of October 27th. Tennyson descriptively anticipated the kind of misrepresentation of which the New York Times is in this case guilty: "A lie that is half a truth is ever the worst of lies."

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Governor Wilson.

With every new speech Governor Wilson is proving the genuineness of his democratic philosophy. Any man might strike one note in music correctly, but it takes a musician to sing. So the veriest plutagogue may say one thing, or even two, that sounds democratic; but no plutagogue can sing the democratic tune without giving himself away. Governor Wilson sings the whole tune true. In his speech, for instance, at the Social Center Conference at Madison, he faced an entirely new form of the democratic movement, but there wasn't a false note throughout that inspiring and convincing speech.

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On Asking Questions.

President Taft asked a question of William J. Bryan. Mr. Bryan answered it. Perhaps Mr. Taft thinks he didn't answer it squarely; but at any rate he answered it courteously, and Mr. Taft therefore owes him an acknowledgment in which Mr. Bryan's failure to meet the gist of the question—if he did fail to meet it—should be pointed out. Mr. Taft chooses, however, to assume that