

decision on which magazines are "muck-raking," "cheap," "fake," or "reform," would be made by a postal bureau at Washington, and without any right of appeal to the courts, but upon the mere say so of the Postmaster General of the day, the significance of Mr. Rodenberg's deliberate proposal is manifest. He is for a press censorship. No doubt that would be handy for his "crowd." But do the people of his district want representation in Congress of that kind?

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### Robert R. McCormick.

There is one candidate for public office in Chicago at the approaching election whom Big Business and its politicians in both parties are devoutly desirous of defeating. For that reason, if for no other, he ought to be triumphantly elected. We allude to Robert R. McCormick. Mr. McCormick is the efficient and faithful member and president of the Sanitary District. Because he is efficient and faithful he displeases Big Business, and its parasites; and it is the set purpose of Big Business to defeat him for re-election if it can. The records of the school board, wherein he appears as the decisive factor in shattering a "grafted" deal with the electric power trust of Chicago, prove his fitness. So does his service in forcing the use of Sanitary District power upon the city at cost, in place of high priced monopoly power. Here are reasons enough for his re-election. Let no democratic Republican turn away from him, nor any democratic Democrat stay away. If faithful service for the people is to be secured, it must be recognized and appreciated when it appears, not by Big Business alone, which doesn't want it, but by the people who do.

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### Corporations in Politics.

The Democratic situation in Massachusetts, resulting at last in the nomination of Congressman Foss for Governor, is peculiar and instructive. At the convention the candidates were Congressman Foss, Charles S. Hamlin, and a former candidate, Mr. Volney. The score on first ballot was: Foss 383, Volney 302, Hamlin 295. Hamlin then threw his strength to Volney, and on the second ballot, Foss had 438, Volney 425 and Hamlin 20. It was thereupon decided, late at night, to break the deadlock by nominating Frederick W. Mansfield, with the understanding that he should give place to a candidate to be selected by a committee. Then the committee got into a deadlock, and so remained for days. Finally, Mr. Hamlin with-

drew and Congressman Foss, the Democrat who swept a Republican district recently to fill a vacancy in Congress, and should have been nominated for Governor by acclamation, was named. So much for superficial peculiarities.

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Now for the deeper peculiarities and the instructive elements. The conduct of Governor Draper (Republican)—whose re-election Mr. Roosevelt is urging, by the way,—his official conduct in promoting the unpopular absorption of the Boston and Maine railway by the New York, New Haven and Hartford, thereby giving the latter the monopoly of New England traffic, made a Democratic victory this year highly probable. The obvious Democratic candidate was Congressman Foss, who had turned the 14,000 Republican majority of 1908 in the Fourteenth Congressional district, into a Democratic majority of 6,000. But thereupon Charles S. Hamlin came into the field, ostensibly as a Democrat but really, it seems now, as a corporation lawyer. Mr. Hamlin is a smooth "proposition" of charming personality, who was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under Carlisle in the reactionary Presidential term of President Cleveland. He dutifully opposed Bryan in 1896, and has ever since trained with reactionaries. But he was not generally known to hold salaried relations with the Boston and Maine railroad, nor with its present owner, the N. Y., N. H. & H. But while the committee of the Democratic convention were at a deadlock, the fact came out that Mr. Hamlin has had such a connection to the tune of \$10,000 a year, for years—first with the B. & M., and latterly with the N. Y., N. H. & H., as part of the assets and liabilities of the former which the latter absorbed. The revelation appears from the Boston papers to have come through George Fred Williams. Had Hamlin been nominated by the Democrats it wouldn't have mattered to the Interests whether Roosevelt's candidate, Draper, the railroad Governor, or Hamlin, the railroad attorney, had won at the election. They could then have felt, whether they said it or not, that "both are good men, safe and sane, and we may go fishing." The exposure settled the matter, however, and in this case Hamlin was laid aside. But how many Hamlins of other names and other annual retainers by public service corporations are in the Democratic party awaiting the opportunity to take up corporation interests in politics when their associates in the Republican party have to leave them off?