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## PRESS OPINIONS

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### "Alive for God."

Chicago Tribune, Nov. 21.—When Tolstoy instituted peasant schools, organized relief for the starving population of middle Russia, improved the character of cheap publications, renounced property in copyright, suffered excommunication from the church, wrote so that the meanest man could understand, he was "alive for God." His passionate attempt at simplicity in a complex age is finished; the wild woods and the tilled fields of Yasnaya Poliana will no more suffer the impact of his bared, pilgrim feet. His pursuit of happiness has carried over yet another Sierra and into another Valley. His greatest honor is that he spoke the word "Brotherhood" in a voice so trumpetlike that after he is dust, in earth, his accents will still reverberate.

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### The "Deserving Poor."

The (Philadelphia) Public Ledger (ind.), Nov. 14.—A young lady of refinement walked a long distance to a police station in New York to ask how she might get in touch with some charitable organization. She was hungry, cold and penniless. A kind policeman gave her carfare, and her case is being investigated, probably with a view to ascertaining whether she deserves to be hungry, cold and penniless.

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### Direct Legislation Wins in Colorado.

The Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat (dem. Dem.), November 16.—The initiative and referendum carried with a whoop in Colorado last Tuesday, in spite of the frantic opposition of the "Beast." It was not until the campaign was nearly at an end that the jungle woke up; and then the way it reverberated with howls and roars and bellowings and snorts of rage was a caution. Money was poured out like water by the corporations. Millions of letters, circulars, handbills and posters were emitted and the billboards all over the State were aflame with passionate denunciations of the people's rule. But in spite of all the money and all the lying and all the howls of calamity the voters stood fast and when the ballots were counted it was found that the "Beast" had been beaten two to one. It was a famous victory over bossism and Big Business and it is all the more so in view of the desperate opposition which the friends of Direct Legislation had to overcome. It should be added that the latter were almost wholly without funds and that their organization was hardly more than nebulous. But the men and women in the fight were in deadly earnest and they worked with heroic courage to the very end. About the only outside help was lent by John Z. White of Illinois, who went there fresh from the big battles for the people's rule in New Mexico and Arizona.

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### On "The Mad Mullahs" of Socialism.

(Chicago) Real Estate News (realty interests), October.—It is greatly to be regretted that in Amer-

ica the proclamation of socialistic dogma has fallen so largely into the hands of irreconcilable and irresponsible people whose apocalyptic mission is seldom redeemed by the saving grace of humor. . . . Almost every intelligent person would have a good deal of sympathy with socialism if its mad mullahs would give him half a chance.

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### Why the White Plague?

The (Seattle) Week-End (ind.), Oct. 15—Overcrowding is one of the main causes of tuberculosis, is it? Well, what is the cause of overcrowding? The natural depravity of man? A human preference for sleeping ten in a room only big enough for two? Then why don't persons herd together in that manner in well-to-do homes? It is only in corrupt politics that men prefer to sleep five in a bed. No, we are not throwing bricks at the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. They are calling attention to the ravages of a great physical disease, due to a great social crime, and the more light they throw on the disease, the more they call public attention to the extent of the disease, the more easily will the people see the crime and the way to abolish it.

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### "Capitalistic" or "Monopolistic."

The (Omaha) Chancellor, September.—I do not think I have ever read an argument against capitalism that would not be stronger in itself, and I have never read one that would not secure more adherents, by substituting the word "monopoly" for "capital," "monopolist" for "capitalist" and "monopolistic system" for the "capitalistic system." Why then should we estrange and antagonize those who still cling to what they call individualism by the use of an indefinite and misleading word? Socialists, philosophic anarchists, single taxers, and communists, and the great mass of those who know themselves as democratic Democrats, are agreed that the abolition of monopoly is the common aim of all who look for a real and speedy change in our social system, and it would be a long step towards it if we state clearly and persistently that this is what we mean. Of course, anything that is a monopoly by all the people, as for instance, the public ownership of our public highways, including rivers, docks and railroads, destroys the monopoly, for that in which everyone shares is no longer a monopoly.

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### The Progressive Impulse.

The (Lincoln, Neb.) Wage-worker (Labor), Oct. 21.—Why not admit what every thoughtful man knows to be the truth—that La Follette, Cummins, Beveridge, Bristow, Norris, Bourne and others of the so-called Insurgents are but giving louder, and perhaps better, voice to the very same ideas that the old-time Populist, of the late 80's and early 90's voiced? Men who become leaders to-day do not become so because they originate the ideas they voice. They have merely had the good fortune to be the men who have focalized the thoughts and aspirations of humble and unknown men of genera-