

Lellan. No empty compliments did these men pay to newspapers such as newspaper men are on such occasions tempted into. While Mr. Flinn and Mr. McLellan ranked the newspaper function high in the realm of human service, they indulged in no boasting about their craft as if it were actually what it ought to be. But they did place the responsibility where it belongs—or rather, they removed it from where it does not belong. "I have worked close to some of the greatest newspaper men in the United States," said Mr. Flinn, "and for many years have been intimately acquainted with most of the newspaper men in Chicago, not only the older, but the younger generation of them, and I can say that their aspirations are the highest and they are working, just as far as they know how, to give the public what the public wants. Newspaper men desire to print good newspapers. I know that the majority of newspaper men dislike to write or see published trivial or worthless matter in their papers." If to his assurance that newspaper men are trying to give the public what it wants "as far as they know how," Mr. Flinn had added, "within the limits of their liberties," his statement would have been complete. But maybe he did; for our quotation is from a daily newspaper report, and the liberties of reporters and editors do not always permit exact reporting.

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Emboldened by certain departures of the weekly and monthly press, and also by the success of the daily *Christian Science Monitor*, the editor and publisher of "The Fourth Estate" announces a daily newspaper venture which all of us may well watch with some concern and much hope. It is to be published at New York, beginning in December, under the name of *The News Letter*. The price, five cents, is to be high enough to make it independent of all support except from readers; and its central idea is thus explained by its projector, Ernest F. Birmingham: "It will rest upon the thought that with the multiplication of periodicals the time has come for a daily which will condense and digest not only the reviews and the standard weeklies of the world, but the daily newspapers themselves, and not only for the benefit of the reader day after day, but as a matter of historical reference for public and individual libraries." Mr. Birmingham catches the right theory of news for such a paper when he says that *The News Letter* "will not pay the usual attention to what are known as newspaper sensations," meaning by this not only "Thaw trials and matters of that kind, but the San Francisco earthquake, the burning of Baltimore, the attempted assassination of

Mayor Gaynor;" for he assumes that readers of *The News Letter* "will on the day of any great sensation like the Gaynor shooting, buy every newspaper on the news stands as fast as it comes off the press." The ideal of this new daily is precisely what the readers of *The Public* will recognize this paper as having aimed at for twelve years or more, except that a daily cannot be expected to systematize its news as a weekly paper may. It can have better facilities, however, for verifying news reports and for so extending its service as to cover fully and accurately the serious news in its own field which sensational newspapers either ignore, falsify or minimize. In the way of prophecy, Mr. Birmingham announces the rapid coming, on a comprehensive scale, of a kind of daily journalism which the trade papers foreshadowed, and of which *The Public* has been a pioneer in the weekly field. "I will make right here the prediction," he says, "that in five or at the most ten years from now there will be in the city of New York perhaps four or six newspapers of large circulation catering to 'the masses,' as we call them, and there will be a very considerable number of specialized daily papers, each covering a distinct field and appealing to a certain limited class of readers of similar desires and tastes."

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Edward Osgood Brown.

Judge Brown, who served six years in the appellate branch of the Circuit Court in Illinois (vol. xii, p. 554; vol. xiii, p. 1010), making a judicial reputation second to none in the State, is again a candidate for election to the bench. His name will appear on the ballot in the Democratic column, for he is a Democrat by party affiliation. But better still, he is a democrat in that broad way in which Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln were democrats. It was Judge Brown's marked ability as a jurist that caused his selection by the Supreme Court for appellate work; and his standing may be inferred from the fact that at the Bar Association primary—an association overwhelmingly Republican in politics—he is endorsed by 83 per cent, with the second highest vote on all judicial candidates, and that vote only 81 short of the highest. The *Chicago Tribune*, a Republican paper with improving tendencies, has recognized his judicial worth by cautiously yet clearly adopting a suggestion that the vacancy caused by the death of the original Republican candidate be left unfilled, saying: "Judge Brown is a man of high character and exceptional legal and judicial equipment, and his defeat was a recognized loss to the local judiciary;

his return would strengthen the bench and redound to the credit of both parties contributing to that result; it would also, under such circumstances, strikingly emphasize the nonpartisan character of the judiciary." For the information of our own readers we should like to add that prior to his going on the bench, nearly eight years ago, and since his retirement nearly two years ago, Judge Brown has contributed to *The Public* some of the best editorials that have appeared in its columns; but this only by the way, for the purpose of showing that his mind does not live alone among the dry bones of the law. His defeat by a narrow margin nearly two years ago was doubtless due to the appearance on the ballot in the same political column and also for a judicial office, of the name of another candidate so similar to his own as to mislead. We venture the hope that this year Judge Brown will be elected by an emphatic majority.

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William E. Dever.

We are not content with the mere passing notice we made last week (p. 1010), of William E. Dever's candidacy for the Superior Court bench of Chicago. Mr. Dever has been an alderman for many years, and throughout he has been honest, not only in the sense in which every man of repute must be honest—or else not get found out—but also in that better sense which makes even the most honored man who fails in it uncomfortable at night in the same bed with himself. Alderman Dever has been courageous, too—more persistently courageous, we should say, than any other progressive member of Council, during the period of his service there, a period when aldermen's souls were often put on trial and most of them came out among the goats. If Wm. E. Dever was not the only exception, he was the only notable one. He has some of the best native qualities for judicial service, and is well equipped for it as a lawyer. Along with Judge Brown, we bespeak for Alderman Dever the support, with vote and influence, of democratic Republicans as well as democratic Democrats.

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Archibald O. Coddington.

In the choice of a Cook County superintendent of schools (to act only outside of Chicago but to be voted for throughout the county), the only worthy political consideration is on that higher plane of politics which disregards partisanship and considers only political principle. By this test, the candidate for county superintendent of schools in Cook county whose democracy, coupled with fitness as an executive educator, especially commends

him is the Republican candidate A. O. Coddington (p. 796). Of Mr. Coddington's fitness technically, his efficient service as a principal in the Chicago system amply testifies; and for his competency as a citizen of the Jefferson and Lincoln type in general public affairs and of the leadership type in educational affairs, we confidently vouch.

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Your Choice at the Election.

Important considerations are involved in the election next week, especially in Colorado, Oregon, Illinois, California and New York.

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There are critical contests in Colorado between progressives and reactionaries. We are not well enough advised to make more than a suggestion or two as to candidates; but we heartily commend John H. Martin (Democrat) of the second district. He has made a truly democratic record in Congress, which ought to secure him the support of the democrats of all parties. The like support should go to I. N. Stevens of Pueblo (Republican), for Congressman at large. Of highest importance in Colorado, however, is the vote on the Constitutional amendment (p. 1,000) for giving to that State the Oregon system of People's Power—Initiative, Referendum, Recall, etc. The distillery and brewery ring are lined up against it, of course, along with the predatory corporations; but this combined opposition ought alone to be enough to insure its adoption by a majority too big to be scaled down by fraudulent counting.

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Oregon votes on several initiative and referendum propositions, some of them of high importance. But advice to Oregon voters is superfluous. Under the Oregon system every voter gets an official campaign document in which every question is explained, and advocated or opposed by, champions of both sides. This has turned unthinking voters into thinking ones.

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The most important phase of the election in Illinois is on the issues raised by the Peoria conference and agitated by its Committee of Seven (p. 962). One of these is the demand for a corrupt practices act, another is the demand for a civil service merit system, and the third is the demand for a Constitutional amendment establishing the Initiative and Referendum. The larger the affirmative vote on all these, the more certain will their adoption by the legislature be.