

We have reason to rejoice over these beginnings of the insurgent movement in both the Democratic and Republican ranks. The Federation of Democratic Clubs adopted Direct Legislation as its cardinal principle; and as the Keystone party has already written the Initiative, Referendum, and Recall into its platform, there are signs of better days in Pennsylvania, where public servants have with astonishing indifference ignored the rights of their constituents.

BERNARD B. MCGINNIS.

## NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, June 20, 1911.

### Federal Initiative, Referendum and Recall.

At the opening of the day's session of the Senate of the United States on the 12th, two memorials with reference to the Initiative, Referendum and Recall for national purposes were submitted by the Vice-President as having been adopted by the legislature of Wisconsin and duly certified by the President of the Wisconsin Senate, the speaker of the Assembly, and the chief clerk of each House. The first of these Wisconsin proposals is as follows:

Joint resolution (J. Res. 43, S.) memorializing Congress to take proper steps toward a Constitutional amendment providing for Initiative, Referendum, and Recall.

Whereas the principle involved in the Initiative, the Referendum, and the Recall, is thoroughly democratic and American; and whereas the American people have repeatedly evidenced their desire to have an opportunity to voice their sentiments through these forms of expression: Therefore be it resolved by the Senate (the Assembly concurring), That we respectfully memorialize the Congress of the United States speedily to take such steps as will result in the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for the Initiative, the Referendum, and the Recall in relation to Federal legislation and officials; and be it further resolved, That a copy of the foregoing be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of State to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each of the Senators and Representatives from this State.

The second Wisconsin proposal is as follows:

Joint resolution (J. Res. 42, S.) memorializing Congress to take proper steps for the adoption of an amendment to the Federal Constitution providing that such Constitution may hereafter be amended by the Initiative.

Whereas the Constitution of the United States should be rendered somewhat flexible in order to meet changing political and economic conditions;

and whereas the amendment of such Constitution by the Initiative is a method founded upon thoroughly democratic and American principles: Therefore be it resolved by the Senate (the Assembly concurring), That we respectfully memorialize the Congress of the United States promptly to take such steps as will result in the adoption of an amendment to the Federal Constitution providing that such Constitution may hereafter be amended by the Initiative; and be it further resolved, That a copy of the foregoing be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of State to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each of the Senators and Representatives from this State.

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### La Follette for President.

At a meeting on the 17th of the Minnesota Progressive League at Minneapolis, a resolution was adopted indorsing Senator La Follette of Wisconsin as the Progressive candidate of the Republican party for President, and recommending favorable action to all of the Progressive Republican organizations in the State. [See current volume, pages 34, 417.]

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### Canadian Reciprocity.

When the report of the Senate finance committee, on the Canadian reciprocity agreement, came before the Senate on the 13th—a report without recommendation—the chairman of the committee, Senator Penrose, was heckled by other Senators as to the committee's reason for failing to make recommendations. Senator Williams, in behalf of Senators Stone and Kern and of himself, presented a statement favoring the agreement. Senator McCumber presented one in opposition. Senator La Follette presented one representing the Insurgent attitude. Senator Nelson filed a protest from farmers. Mr. La Follette's statement appears in full in the Congressional Record of June 13, at pages 1990, 1991 and 1992. Mentioning the Canadian agreement, it declares:

It is perfectly consistent for one who believes in free trade to support it. I respectfully submit that no man who believes either in a tariff for revenue only or in a protective tariff can consistently give it his support. In the belief that duties should represent the difference in the cost of production at home and abroad, with others I contended, when the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill was pending, for reductions in duties to that level in so far as the information then at hand furnished any safe criteria to determine rates upon that principle. I shall continue to advocate tariff legislation based upon that principle. I believe in reciprocity. I believe in reciprocity with Canada. The mutual give and take of tariff concessions between our country and our world neighbors, along the lines laid down by Blaine and McKinley, is a policy that has in view the best welfare of all concerned. The fair exchange of commercial privileges between the people of two great producing and con-