

"were called one by one to the stand and told, mostly in broken English, of the shops, homes and life in the mill town of the great woolen company," and whose testimony consisted of "harrowing stories of privation in homes, or relentless grinding work and abuse by State and city authorities." The fact that the American Woolen trust controls one of the highly protected industries, protected in the interest of American labor, is the basis of the investigation. (See current volume, page 202.)



Sugar and Income Taxes.

Two Congressional bills prepared by the Committee on Ways and Means of the lower house of Congress, were ratified by the Democratic caucus on the 1st. One of them proposes putting importations of sugar on the free list; the other would amend the corporation tax law so as to tax all individual earnings above \$5000 a year at the rate of 1 per cent on the excess.



George F. Cotterill Probably Elected.

As this Public goes to press the dispatches from Seattle state that in the mayoralty election held on the 5th, the election of George F. Cotterill, the Singletaxer, over H. C. Gill, who was recalled as Mayor somewhat more than a year ago, seems assured. Returns from one-fourth of the city and practically all of the strong Gill wards give Mr. Cotterill a lead of more than 200 votes over Mr. Gill. Cotterill's supporters claim he will have a majority of more than 2,000. [See current volume, page 203.]



Fiscal Progress in Rhode Island.

After four years of public-spirited effort, Rhode Island has finally passed a general tax law. It provides for a permanent Tax Commission composed of two Republicans and one Democrat, the term of office to be six years; and henceforth the taxable property in the townships and cities of the State is to be listed in four classes. These classes are (1) land, (2) buildings and other improvements, (3) tangible personal estate, and (4) intangible personal estate. The last of these, intangible personalty, is to be taxed at four-tenths of one per cent whether owned by individuals or industrial corporations, the tax for corporations to be assessed by the State Tax Commission upon their "corporate excess", namely, the difference between physical value and market value.



Governor Johnson of California.

Governor Johnson of California addressed the

Ohio Constitutional convention on the 29th upon invitation. Introduced by President Bigelow as one entitled to the respect of all, because of his leadership in good citizenship, Governor Johnson plunged at once into the body of his speech with only the preliminary remark that it might seem incongruous for one to come from the rim of the continent to give counsel to the people of Ohio, regarding the work in hand by the Constitutional Convention, especially after the words of advice to which the delegates listened last week. But out of the West, he said—

has come a new race that has found it necessary to find new processes by which government may be restored to those to whom it rightfully belongs; and out of the West we humble exponents of that movement are glad to come to preach the faith that is in us at any time. . . . The only difference between the East and the West as to State government, is that in the West the people have found the power of expression, while in the East the politicians and interests have the power of repression.

He then enumerated the direct primary law, the Initiative and Referendum, the Recall, and the Presidential preference primary, as the order of progression in California; and on the application of the Recall to judges said:

Judges are but men after all. When we begin to whittle away human frailties and try to make them something more than men, we come to a species of worship, and the American people can never tolerate that. There are two kinds of judges. The one is ruled by his conscience and guided by the law and by the facts. The second is he who listens to the power in the litigant who advances to his desk. The first kind never will be recalled. The second will be recalled instantly and should be recalled without delay. Impeachment is not, and never has been an effective remedy to prevent judicial corruption. In no State has it ever been effective. It is a mere scarecrow that does not even frighten. Don't allow yourselves to be frightened by mere bugaboos. No people will recall a judge because of a decision given erroneously, but honestly. No people will recall their judge unless back of his decision there is real corruption. No just judge need fear the masses. We of the West, in our optimism have been willing to trust the people. . . . Judges are elected by the people. When elected, they are fulsom in their praises of the people who gave them power, but after being clothed in the gown and wig of office, they become contemptuous of that force which gave them power and to them then the people become the rabble and the masses. . . . Now, if the people have the judgment to decide a judge's qualifications in the beginning and his fitness for re-election, should not they have the right to recall him? . . . There are distinguished members of the bar, and we have them in California, who view any change in government to be a species of anarchy not to be tolerated. We had all these arguments in California. But I preach to you the faith that is in us, as people of the West, and I say to you that the Recall must be made applicable to judges first of all.