

needs no defense. If we are ever to have good government, we must begin with local government. Not local government superimposed, but local government locally planned and administered. This is the highway to good citizenship, and good citizenship alone can make good government. The idea that a people must learn to be self-governing from teachers who govern them, is as false as the notion that one can learn to write without writing, to speak without speaking, or to swim without going into the water. Speaking is learned by speaking, writing by writing, swimming by swimming, and self-government by self-governing. There is no other way. Local option in taxation is, of course, implied by local self-government. No community can govern itself unless it governs its system of taxation. By enactment of these three measures, then, as proposed by the Ohio State Board of Commerce, the people of the Buckeye state will serve themselves and become an example to the rest of the country.

The plan of campaign announced by the board is to put regularly into the hands of at least 100 constituents of each member of the legislature a copy of "Public Policy," an able weekly paper, edited by Allen Ripley Foote, who is a devoted advocate of the three principles of government enunciated above. In that and other ways it is designed not only to educate the legislators but also to assure them, and this is very important, of the encouragement and support of an intelligent body of their constituents.

Along the same lines of local government the State Bar association of Ohio has recently gone on record. At its annual meeting in July last it adopted the following important resolution:

Resolved, that the constitution of Ohio should be so amended as to completely separate state and local taxation; and that each county of the state be vested with the power of taxation for the purposes of such city or county, subject to the au-

thority of the legislature to limit local indebtedness, and fix the maximum rate of taxation which city or county may levy.

The principle of local option in taxation is rapidly gaining ground. Our readers are familiar with the particulars of the constitutional amendment movement to allow it in Colorado, the legislature there having by more than a two-thirds vote in each house submitted the amendment to popular vote. In New York, where the idea originated, it is becoming visibly more and more popular. Several weeks ago (p. 144) we described its strong beginning in New Jersey—the township of Franklin, Essex county, of which Nutley is the intellectual center, having voted for it in regular town meeting. This New Jersey movement has progressed from the Franklin township vote to the stage of the establishment of a state organization, "The New Jersey Tax Reform association," which has its headquarters at 294 Market street, Newark. That the local option tax system is now in extended and successful operation in New Zealand, where it first received legislative sanction, is a fact with which our readers are familiar.

Nothing could be more encouraging than the earnest efforts that are being made by officials in the southern states to stop the lynching of negro prisoners. A Georgia sheriff has the honor of having begun this reform. He proved that a loaded gun with a determined sheriff behind it would hold the cowardly mobs at bay. Now his example has been followed by a sheriff in Mississippi, assisted by the governor, and by one in Alabama. Southerners who abhor lawlessness are to be congratulated upon these hopeful signs. But the blind and brutal hostility of white mobs to negroes is not ended. Lynchings are reported from two or three southern points, and the mobbing of the negro inhabitants of a Missouri town make one of the most shameful stories

of the whole reign of anti-negro mob law.

Negro hatred is not confined to the South. Utterly without reason it is growing at the North, and not among workingmen, but among the rich. What is to be said, for instance, of the American snobs who have formally protested against the admission to the London hotel in which they are stopping, of several American gentlemen, clergymen in attendance upon a religious council to be held in London, for no other reason than that the objecting snobs happen to be white and the clerical gentlemen happen to be colored? Perhaps nothing need be said, the hotel proprietor having said all that was necessary. This mere subject of a monarchy rebuked these enlightened citizens of a free and equal republic, with the following remarks:

I could not think of offering an insult to such men as Bishop Derrick, of New York; Bishop Janner, of Philadelphia; Bishop Gaines, of Atlanta, and Bishop Arnett. I told the Americans that when the Indian princes were here no one objected to meet them and I do not propose to make any distinction at the expense of Africans.

Prosecutions of trusts have recently been instituted both in the state courts of Ohio and in the federal courts, under the professional direction of F. S. Monett, the Ohio attorney general who fought the Standard Oil trust in that state until the Republican convention came to the rescue, and put him out of the fight by nominating another man for attorney general. Mr. Monett expresses confidence in these prosecutions. They are maintained at the instance of the American Anti-Trust league, 1229 Pennsylvania avenue, Washington—the organization of which M. L. Lockwood is president—which has assumed the responsibility of raising the necessary funds. It is now soliciting contributions.

For once a set-back has been given to the stupid municipal system of compelling peddlers and showmen to