



Joseph Farris

is the other of the two candidates whose personality especially interests our readers. He was nominated by the eighth largest vote in the same contest. Mr. Farris is now alderman from the second ward—"the little giant from the Second," they call him.

His first experience in politics was as Labor candidate for Mayor of Springfield about 20 years ago, when he polled 700 votes. At that time he was active in the Knights of Labor, and was a national organizer for the moulders' union. He began working in a foundry when 13 years of age, and is now the owner of a foundry in Springfield. He served as a labor appointee in Governor Altgeld's administration; but even before that he had become, as he has ever since remained, a devoted disciple of Henry George, which brought him into co-operation with Bode, Lee, and the rest of the indefatigable "Spaulding group."

Five years ago, when Bode was elected alderman (vol. ix, p. 7), an office in which he distinguished himself in Springfield as a courageous progressive leader, Farris, running as a Democrat in a Republican ward, was defeated by only 50 votes; but two years later he was elected from the same ward by 63 majority (vol. xi, p. 54), and a year ago, after two years of aldermanic service, he was re-elected (vol. xiii, p. 377) by 200 majority.

Born October 22, 1862, Mr. Farris is only eight

years older than Mr. Spaulding, who was born November 21, 1870; and their civic work in Springfield, along with the others of their growing progressive group, has been co-operative and untiring. They nearly elected Bode Mayor (vol. x, p. 8) as an independent candidate in 1907. With all the ability and industry of your politician for personal ends, they are single minded for the promotion of public interests. The principal political policy for which they have stood is public ownership of public utilities.

Besides Spaulding and Farris, there are three out of the eight nominees who may be voted for with confidence in their civic honesty and courage. These are George E. Coe, Frank L. Hatch and H. B. Davidson. Any two of them, with Spaulding and Farris as fellow Commissioners and Schnepf as Mayor, would give Springfield an exemplary commission government.

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HAVE PATIENCE, BROTHER.

For The Public.

An editor of a western Socialist paper notes that there is nearly a billion dollars worth of gold coin locked up in the United States Treasury, and wants to know what good it does.

We can partly enlighten him. While admitting as absurd the possibility that some day all the people will take a sudden notion to demand gold for their greenbacks, yet we must not overlook the recent vast concentration of wealth.

In but a very few more years, Morgan will have all the greenbacks. What better psychological moment than that for him to decide to have the finest mansion that was ever built. What could be finer than a mansion of solid gold with solid gold fences and other things to match. He could take his greenbacks and get the gold, because he would have use for it.

There may be some radicals who would oppose such a conclusion as cataclysmic. For them we offer a few alternative suggestions. Why not put our navy on a gold basis. What a field for new experiments would thus be opened up. We could build gold battleships and try the effect on them of gold bullets fired by sailors in solid gold braid. We could fortify the Panama Canal with gold bricks. We could pass a law providing that hereafter all red tape should be yellow. We could cease the outworn practice of whitewashing our Senators and other political disgraces, and gild them instead. In times of financial stress, we would establish a free gold line for needy millionaires. In times of famine, we could call on the resourceful Burbank to convert this gold into food.

Let not thy heart be troubled. While there is gold there is hope.