

trial complications supported by Constitutional buttresses and public opinion will presently permit. A vote for Wilson is a vote against the principle of Privilege. How far in the direction of abolishing Privilege Mr. Wilson *can* go if elected, will depend very much upon the popular backing he has. The larger his vote the greater his power to overcome the obstacles that plutocrats and spoilsmen will thrust in his way. How far he *will* go, the opportunity being afforded, will depend upon himself. No one can make predictions for him more than for any other man, except upon the basis of his record in politics. But the record is all in his favor. As a candidate for Governor and now for President, Mr. Wilson has personally been more defiant than any other Presidential candidate at this election has been in any campaign time, of the bosses, financial or political, who could have served him and would have served him had he dealt tenderly with them. As Governor of New Jersey he has officially done more that goes to prove the genuineness of his declarations against Privilege, than Mr. Taft has done in four years at the White House or Mr. Roosevelt did in all his seven years there.



La Follette on Roosevelt.*

Mr. Roosevelt's worthiness for leadership in the Progressive movement could not be better known or understood by anyone than by Senator La Follette. Senator La Follette stood alone among Republican leaders in the Senate in the heat of the Progressive fight, when President Roosevelt, who might have helped mightily, helped not at all, but hindered; and Senator La Follette deserves public confidence in his veracity and in his loyalty to principle. But Senator La Follette does not testify to Roosevelt's worthiness. On the contrary he declares him unworthy. And he proves his case.



In the latest of the historical articles which Senator La Follette is publishing in La Follette's magazine, a continuation of those he recently published in the American Magazine, he charges that Roosevelt's candidacy was induced, by the Special Interests in order to "capture, or to divide and checkmate the Progressive movement." To reasonable observers of political affairs during the past ten years, this charge needs no direct corroboration. The circumstantial evidence in support of it would convict of murder, if murder were the offense. It is overwhelming. But La Follette does not trust to circumstantial evidence alone. He testifies.

*See Publics of August 2, page 722; and October 4, page 939.

Regarding some of the more recent facts in the matter, Senator La Follette goes on to say of Roosevelt:

Until he came into the open as a candidate five months before the [regular Republican] convention, there had been a strong and rapidly growing Progressive movement within the Republican party. It was based on clearly defined principles and stood forth as the representative of modern political thought on fundamental democracy. It had assumed national proportions and was united. Into this movement, when it gave promise of national success, Roosevelt projected his ambition to be President a third time.

Mr. Roosevelt's facility for finding new folks to fool as fast as those he is through with have found him out, must have some psychological reason. Probably a hint of it appears in the old anecdote of the boy whose father objected to his going to dancing school. "But father," urged the boy, "didn't you and mother go to dancing school when you were young?" To the father's explanation that they did, but had seen the folly of it, the boy replied: "Well, father, I want to see the folly of it, too."



More Important Politics.

Who is elected President is of secondary importance to the questions of taxation to be voted on next week in Missouri and Oregon. It would be beyond all reason to expect the progressive side on these questions to win its first battle over the tremendous political power of the Interests, which are arrayed against it. But serious political battles, with real political and financial enemies, are being fought; and out of the result next Tuesday, be that result what it may, will come new energy and better opportunity for the next battle.



The Tax Amendment in Missouri.

Describing at page 1010, the tax amendment to be voted on in Missouri next Tuesday, we caused a mistaken impression by saying that "in 1920 and thereafter land values would bear," under that Amendment if adopted, "the whole tax burden." The error was due in part to a misapprehension of ours as to the text of the Amendment. We had mistaken the draft as reported at page 1030 of The Public for October 6, 1911, for the revised form as finally filed. The form as filed, being the Amendment on which the vote of next Tuesday is to be taken, is as follows:

Section 1. All property now subject to taxation shall be classified for purposes of taxation and for exemption from taxation, as follows:

Class One shall include all personal property. All