

break down the initiative and referendum in Oregon. There are indications pointing that way that will be exposed in time. Perhaps too late. There are also indications pointing to money being contributed to break up labor organization, set the Grangers by the ears and prevent the formation of the Farmers' Union. The people of Oregon are reaching for the seats of power, and the tax-dodging, public-grafting corporations are going to try to stamp out the blaze before it becomes a conflagration extending over the country.

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#### School House Centers.

The Aurora (Ill.) Daily Beacon (ind.) Apr. 11.—Milwaukee's new mayor, a Socialist, has some ideas in regard to municipal government which strike at the root of the American community and which seem entirely practical. One of these is making the public school the social center. He would have the school building become the meeting place of the people of the district where fathers and mothers as well as children could meet with the teachers and all enjoy pleasures of which many are now deprived. He would have motion picture shows, billiard tables, bowling alleys, card rooms, etc. In fact his idea is to make the school house a club house. That idea is fast growing. It has already been adopted in many cities.

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#### A Source of Public Income.

The (Chicago) Daily Socialist (Soc.), Apr. 15.—The Chipfield legislative committee that is investigating the stealing of "made lands" on the Lake front has estimated that some \$100,000,000 worth of such property has been taken from the State and city and is now held by private individuals. Here is a mass of income-bearing property that might be recovered by a Socialist administration without interfering with the constitution or overthrowing any of the established laws of capitalism. There is no especial reason why a big corporation that has stolen land from the State or city should be given very much more consideration than a hungry man who steals a piece of meat from the beef trust. . . . That Lake front steal might be a good place to begin "expropriating." There need be no talk of "compensation" or of violating abstract justice.

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#### Legalized vs. Non-Legalized Graft.

Puck (satirical), April 13.—The story of "Pittsburgh's shame," in other words, the Pittsburgh graft disclosures, is made particularly interesting by the fact that Pittsburgh, which is so roused against municipal wrong-doing, is itself the hub of legalized graft in America. In the current case, Pittsburgh officials and some Pittsburgh bankers conspired so that both should benefit financially at the public expense. To that, it now appears, the Pittsburgh public objects. A great many men in Pittsburgh, however, see nothing wrong at all in a little pact between themselves and a Republican Congress by which, through a prohibitive tariff schedule, they shall benefit financially at the public expense. That sort of graft is legal. Mr. Carnegie says that he

owes to Pittsburgh "all that he has." And when he says that he simply means that Pittsburgh, Pa., is the center of the steel industry.

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#### Milwaukee Socialism.

Mother Earth (anarchist), April.—The election of the Social Democratic candidates in Milwaukee seems to have confused the minds of even some usually clear-headed radicals. . . . It is childish to pretend that the election of the Social Democrats is a victory for revolutionary Socialism. On the contrary, it is its debacle. The original purpose of Socialist political activity was to propagate revolutionary Socialism, i. e., the abolition of capitalism and wage slavery. Political Socialism has perverted the means into an end. The Milwaukee brand, especially, has transformed Socialism into a demand for clean street cars, three-cent fare, cheaper gas, and public lavatories. On equally revolutionary planks such men as Potato-patch Pingree, Golden Rule Jones, Tom Johnson, Brand Whitlock, Judge Gaynor and others have been carried into power with tremendous pluralities. The Populists had been even more radical. The Social Democratic success in Milwaukee is a victory for petty bourgeois reform. It is fraught with great danger to real Socialism, the ideal of liberty, equal opportunity, and justice.

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#### Land Grabbing in the Philippines.

The (New York) Nation, March 31.—By the organic act of July 1, 1902, Congress prescribed that no one person should purchase more than forty acres of land in the Philippines, and no corporation more than twenty-five hundred. Ever since, there has been walling and gnashing of teeth among the Americans in the archipelago who are there merely for exploitation purposes, and corporations have been loud in their statements that no large business enterprise can be made to pay in the Philippines under the present restrictions. These enactments have been the one bulwark of the Filipinos against the fortune-seeking American, whether of the respectable class or of the kind that disgraces us in Chinese and Japanese ports. Now there is a scheme up in Congress, sanctioned by the Administration, to upset virtually this whole policy by putting on the market in large lots the 400,000 acres of land purchased from the Friars by the United States—these comprising some of the richest lands in the islands. Attorney General Wickersham has ruled that these lands do not come under the organic act. If they do not, it is of the utmost importance that they should be brought within it. It would be a lasting shame to the United States if this misappropriation of public lands, which ought to be held in trust for the common people of the Philippine Islands, should be diverted to the uses of the Sugar Trust or similar concerns, or be made the bait for luring large capital to the islands.

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"You are an American, and yet you don't believe in free speech. How's that?"

"I'm in the State Department."—Newark Evening News.