

political atmosphere as planets through space; that each co-ordinate department—executive, legislative and judicial—would hold each of the others in equilibrium. But President Taft, if correctly reported by Edward G. Lowrey in Harper's Weekly of June 3rd, must have abandoned the co-ordinate theory if he ever held it. When asked about the trust decisions, he said, as Mr. Lowrey reports him, that whatever had been his opinions as expressed in one of his messages to Congress, "he abandoned them when the Supreme Court spoke." If this does not mean that Mr. Taft subordinates the Executive to the Court, what can it mean; and if the Executive is subordinate to the Court, how can the two be co-ordinate?

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### Legitimate Business versus Big Business.

Through men like Robert Moran, of Seattle, the legitimate business interests of the country are beginning to see that their prosperity is not with Big Business but with the labor interests, of which they themselves are part. In other words, the true industrial line is not between employer and employe; it is between producer and parasite.

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Mr. Moran cannot be denounced by Big Business as a wild-eyed radical whose ravings are to be ignored while Big Business keeps on plundering legitimate business. He has been Mayor of Seattle, he was founder of the Moran Brothers Company of Seattle and its head until its sale to the Moran Company, he was a large employer for many years and is a man of wider than Washington State influence. Writing on harbor improvements at Seattle, in the Railway and Marine News of that city, issue of June 1, Mr. Moran denies that Seattle is in need of any further great public improvements. "She needs not the destruction of capital, in the construction of harbor works that will not be required for a hundred years hence." What she needs is factories, he explains, and to get them she must work out a plan "to take the speculator in raw land out of the deal," some such plan as that of Vancouver and "other places, to stop taxing productive labor and put taxes on vacant land."

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Quite as encouraging to legitimate business as Mr. Moran's declaration, is its editorial approval by the Railway and Marine News, an old established business periodical, which agrees that harbor improvements beyond the present needs of

Seattle "are land speculation and debt-creating schemes pure and simple," and that many business men know it but "haven't the nerve to come out and say so, as does Mr. Moran." It quotes approvingly another letter from Mr. Moran in which he truly says: "Manufactures and agriculture make commerce and produce wealth; they never made hard times; you can lay that up to the gambler, and in that profession the speculator in raw land stands in the foreground in Seattle. He is a parasite in every industrial community, and there is only one cure, taxation." To appreciate Mr. Moran's thoroughly sound position, it might be better to identify land speculation as an interest maintained in greater or less degree by many persons having also productive interests, than to personify it. Land speculators as a distinct class may not be very numerous or very wicked anywhere; but land speculation is an enormous and industrially destructive interest everywhere.

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### Coming! Coming!

Mr. Roosevelt's almost excellent editorial on "Arizona and the Recall of the Judiciary," in The Outlook of June 24th, testifies to an awakening as great and as sudden as that of the Irishman who in the story knocked down the Jew. If Roosevelt trots along at the rate he is going now, he will be abreast of Bryan in a year or two. And let us assure the admirers of his democracy who have been unable to see Bryan's under its prairie label, that we intend no odious comparison. Roosevelt really does seem to be advancing out of democratic phrase-making with shirt-sleeve ex-emplifications, into the open day of "the real thing." Though he still alludes to opinions of others than his own crowd as "the whim of the mob," he does truly seem to be improving.

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## THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

I.

In an issue of The Public some months ago\* we referred editorially in these terms to the Declaration of Independence in the Philippines, ten years ago or thereabouts:

*"The Declaration of Independence was suppressed in the Philippines by American decree."*

That assertion appears to have been erroneous.

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At the time of publishing it, the fact as stated

\*Current volume, page 4.