

spread among his neighbors the news of the light he had seen. Dr. Beeler's friends of Hamilton say of that city that it "probably has more Single Taxers than any other in Ohio, due largely to Dr. Beeler." The Democratic "Journal" says that "he observed the trend of events and human progress with a keenness and an accuracy of thought that was a delight to listen to," and "he always had a reason for his views;" while the Republican "News" describes him as a man "essentially modest," but "strong and positive," to whom "humanity was his first interest," who was "actively, sympathetically and intelligently interested" in social questions, and that in the discussions at his store during "all the years it was a favorite resort of his coterie of friends," there "was nothing superficial." If that could only be said of all such discussions!

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Civic Engineering.

Professor Lewis J. Johnson, of the technical department of Harvard University, and a distinguished expert and leader in reinforced concrete construction since his designing of the stadium at Cambridge, has invented the new and good name of "civic engineering" for a new and good thing which he proposes—"constructive political science." The suggestion was made by Prof. Johnson in a letter to the Engineering News of August 25 last. Here is his interpretation of the first law of the constructive science of "civic engineering" as he sees it:

The people must rule—by indirect control so long as that suffices, and, that failing, by regular and orderly direct control to such extent and to such degree of detail as may be required for complete success.

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Prof. Johnson's indefinite allusion to the Initiative, Referendum, Recall, and allied machinery for popular government, as an elementary law of Civic Engineering, is doubtless due in part to the habitual caution of a conscientious expert whose errors, if he makes any, may cause the collapse of a gigantic bridge or the crumbling of massive walls; but it is in greater part, probably, an indication of the good natured deference of an Eastern professor who knows the whole country, to the provincial prejudices that envelope the Atlantic intellect. In that part of his letter in which he gives testimony, Prof. Johnson unreservedly cites the experience of the commission-governed cities of the West and interior South, all the characteristics which, "from the Initiative, Referendum and Recall to systematic publicity and the small council, operate directly toward

popular supremacy in fact," discouraging "assaults upon the public welfare," and encouraging "loyal public service," and thereby tending "constantly to keep the public interest not only supreme but unassailed." He advises "any one wishing to study what is probably the most perfect piece of machinery to this end" to "turn to the charter under which Grand Junction, Col., is now living," one of the "distinctive features" of which "preferential voting—a workable scheme for dispensing with primaries and securing elections in the interest of the majority—has with little modification been embodied in the proposed new charter for Buffalo, already approved by popular vote in that city" (vol. xii, p. 1091). Proceeding with his primer lesson in Civic Engineering, Prof. Johnson says:

The Denver elections of last May show still further the value of means of popular control suited to the magnitude of the task. Denver, in that election, had the chance by direct popular vote to settle each of a series of twenty-one questions. The voters had the incentive of knowing that as they voted so it would be. Measures were for once disentangled from candidates, from parties, and from one another. Here was a chance for intelligent action. It was fully improved. Despite the lavish use of money and all else that great wealth and the united political machines could do to mislead—and they did much—the people adopted each of the six measures designed for their welfare, and rejected all of the fifteen which were not so designed. Much more to the same purport might be cited from American experience and on a State-wide scale, as in Oregon, not to mention the even better established Swiss results of direct popular control.

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"Made in Germany."

The daily papers told of an incident last week of the deepest import to minds that are watching the evolution of democracy: "Scores injured by the Berlin police—'Bloodhounds!' shriek crowds as Von Jagow's men ride them down. In spite of the strictness with which the cordons were maintained, the strikers and their sympathizers held meetings at the street corners, which in several instances caused bloody fights." It is not much, the whole item; but let your mind wander over to England and look at that clock made in Germany. The words "Made in Germany" have a peculiar significance over there. To the less fortunate men, the words mean hatred, impotent rage; to the more fortunate—those who do not depend upon daily wages, and are trying to think out what it is that is wrong but do not think that the root of a thing is the place to hunt—those words have meant much: that Germany has discipline which England should copy; that