

ment of small homes, and the utter futility of all attempts to tax personal or intangible property." He has also rightly described that historic report as "the very beginning of a line of inquiry that has gone on in this country since, is the heart of the Budget fight now going on in England, has been applied in parts of Australia, in New Zealand and western Canada, and is today a recognized part of the taxing system in these places."

+

As that system is usually and rightly associated with the name of Henry George, whose chief American disciple Tom L. Johnson was, there is singular appropriateness in the fact that Henry George's son, Henry George, Jr., now in Congress and on Johnson's old committee, is reviving the work there which began with the Johnson report.

+ +

### Tom L. Johnson's Democratic Successor.

When Mayor Johnson was defeated for re-election in Cleveland two years ago next fall, one candidate upon his ticket was nevertheless elected. This was Newton D. Baker, the City Solicitor, whom Mayor Johnson had appointed to that place in the cabinet of his first term, and who had been thereafter (appointments having been abolished) regularly elected to the same office. Through all his long fight with Privilege in Cleveland, Tom L. Johnson relied upon Mr. Baker as his chief of staff. For not only had Mr. Baker become Johnson's worthily trusted personal friend, and his appreciative and loyal political associate, adviser and coadjutor; but Baker's general training and character, together with his fidelity and experience in the city's law department, made him especially valuable to Johnson in his administration of the affairs of Cleveland for the public good. Whoever had the confidence of Tom L. Johnson knows that through all the years of their association and down to the last hour of his conscious life, he would have chosen Newton D. Baker, had the responsibility of choosing come to him, for his own successor in political and administrative leadership in Cleveland. Mr. Baker's announcement of his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Mayor, must therefore be encouraging to the men of Cleveland who believed in Johnson. And regardless of all questions of Johnson's confidence in Baker, the candidacy of the latter should be an inspiration to the democratic Democrats of Cleveland and a welcome announcement to all non-partisans. The Plain Dealer says none too much in Baker's favor when

it emphasizes his popularity, his qualities of leadership, his years of service as City Solicitor, and the fact that the announcement of his candidacy for Mayor "raises the campaign to a high plane," and warns both parties that unless they pit against him broad and strong men his nomination and election are assured.

+ +

### Civic Intelligence and Direct Legislation.

The Initiative, Referendum and Recall will be glad to know that Mr. Wickersham is "agin 'em."

+

Who is Mr. Wickersham? Why, don't you know? He is the Attorney General whom President Taft promoted to that exalted post, from a partnership with brother Henry in the service of "good" trusts.

+

Mr. Wickersham, with the provincialistic spirit of his place and class, tells this year's graduates of Yale that under the Initiative and Referendum "a small minority of the qualified electors, organized to accomplish any particular purpose, can mould the laws, or even the Constitution, to accomplish their purposes before the great majority of the electors are aware of what is going on."

+

Then the great majority of the electors must be lacking in civic intelligence, and therefore properly disfranchised, the more especially as they disfranchise themselves. But Mr. Wickersham forgets that under the same Initiative and Referendum the "great majority," caught napping in that way by a minority, could recover what they had lost before they were aware of what was going on, by resorting to their electoral rights of Initiative at the very next election. If their rights were snatched away by misrepresentatives in the absence of the Initiative and Referendum, they couldn't recover them without trusting other representatives, who also might misrepresent them or be outmaneuvered by corporation lawyers. We say that Mr. Wickersham forgets this. But does he?

+ +

### Those Co-ordinate Departments.

Much boasting has been done, first and last, of the balance of powers in our Federal Constitution. With an Executive free of dictation from Congress and Court, with Congress free from Court and Executive, and the Supreme Court free from both the others, it has long been argued that this Republic would sail majestically through the