

# The Public

A National Journal of Fundamental Democracy &  
A Weekly Narrative of History in the Making

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## EDITORIAL

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### The Desire of All Nations.

The unrest, the discontent, the revolutions, the reachings out of the nations, the social conflicts of twentieth century man—what are they but Nature's labor pains preceding a new birth of Freedom? Here, there, everywhere the nations and peoples of the earth are making ready for the coming of the infant; they are preparing the way of the Lord, which is the "bread giver." They are making ready for the Prince of Peace. Equality of opportunity is the "bread giver." The democracy of Brotherhood is the Prince of Peace, of which Justice is the Father. No child is born into this world without pain, travail, agonies of the mother. The nations of the earth are pregnant with Freedom, and the lords of privilege cannot prevent the inevitable birth. "For thus saith the Lord of Hosts: 'And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory.'"

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### Observations on British Politics.

The Editor of The Public leaves Chicago on the 23d to sail for Liverpool on the 25th from St. Johns, New Brunswick, on board the "Lake Champlain," one of the vessels of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's "Royal Mail Steamship Lines" in the Atlantic service. He goes for the purpose of observing the closing days of the political campaign in England, Scotland, Wales and

Ireland, and the organization of the new Parliament.

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Although his letters cannot begin in *The Public* earlier than the issue of January 21st, and by that time the result of the elections will probably have been already learned by cable, this is not of greatest importance. The most important thing about the British situation is not the electoral result nor any of the mere events of campaigning or of Parliamentary organization. It is the character of the contest, its original impulses and their variations, and the currents of public thought and political action it has set a-flowing. Intelligent reports upon these phases of the fight are not likely to find their way over here by cable. Certainly not if the cable reports of the coming months are to be judged by those of the past year and a half. And in the very nature of the subject the mere events of the election could hardly be presented lucidly by cable to readers unfamiliar with their general setting. It will be the principal aim, therefore, of the British letters of the Editor of *The Public* to make their readers as familiar with the whole situation, its conditions and possibilities, as if they were themselves upon the ground and participants in the struggle. For that purpose the letters will assume no local knowledge whatever—political, historical or of any other kind—on the part of their readers; but will make all explanations elementary, even at the risk of “bringing coals to Newcastle.”

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It is of the utmost importance, in our judgment, that this British struggle be thoroughly understood by Americans. Not only does it promise to be in itself an historical episode paralleling in importance the French Revolution, and a center of influences profoundly affecting the democratic tendencies of the whole civilized world; but it also gives indications of peculiar and gratifying significance with reference to the affairs of our own country. The land question, in which the British struggle has originated; protectionism, with which British plutocracy seeks to stem the tides setting toward land socialization; the “saloon question,” as we should call it in our country, which enters in uniquely as a tremendous factor in support of aristocracy; the attitude and influence of the physical force suffragettes; the culmination of all influences in another battle of historic magnitude between Lords and Commons; and the union of Liberal, Irish and Labor parties over this culminating issue—all conspire to make the British campaign an object lesson of the highest importance for demo-

crats of every shade and of all party affiliations in the United States.

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### The Cleveland Traction Victory.

Mayor Johnson's traction victory, as may be seen from our News Narrative of this week (p. 1231), is now about as complete as it can be in the absence of municipal ownership legislation in Ohio. The fares begin at 3 cents and remain at 3 cents until it is demonstrated that this fare will not pay 6 per cent, and then they cannot rise above 4 cents. The valuation of present property, which is entitled to earn 6 per cent, is more than a million dollars less than it was under the valuation of two years ago. The city will be free to make better arrangements after eight years. The operation will be under continuous municipal supervision and control. Meanwhile the original investors in lowfare stock under the guarantee will find it at par or above in consequence of the allowance to them of back dividends at 6 per cent.

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### The Nicaragua Mystery.

Inspired dispatches from Washington hint that the interference of the Taft administration with Zelaya's government in Nicaragua, has been because Zelaya protected great monopolies. And pray when did the Taft administration become interested in suppressing monopolies and monopolists except in the interest of competing monopolies and monopolists? The thing begins to smell like a rat floating in the air, which it is too late, we fear, to nip in the bud.

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### What Is the Matter with Spokane?

Strange reports have been coming out of Spokane for many weeks (p. 1118), reports which, if true, show Spokane to be an un-American city. These reports may be exaggerated, for they come almost wholly from one side. Socialist papers complain bitterly and denounce roundly. So much so that one feels like questioning their reports, especially as the other papers are almost silent, for this silence may mean that there is really nothing to be reported. Yet they are not altogether silent. Here is an Associated Press dispatch from Spokane, which we find in the Chicago Daily News of the 11th—

Charging that it was a libelous publication, the city authorities seized every copy of the *Industrial Worker*, organ of the Industrial Workers of the World, as it came from the press today. The papers were taken to the city hall and it is said they will be burned. The leading article is by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, convicted this week of conspiracy, in