

Taft's notorious confession, his Norton letter (vol. xiii, pp. 889, 895, 1185), in which the President admitted using official patronage before the fall primaries to help get votes for "Standpat" Republicans against progressive Republicans, but, finding that it didn't pay, promised not to do so any more, was quoted by Senator Bourne, who denounced this use of patronage as essentially bribery. "This is a charge," he said, "which no citizen can discuss without regret; yet the whole subject is of such vital importance in the preservation of representative government that I would feel remiss in my duty if I failed to call it to the attention of the country and place in available form such information relating thereto as may come to my attention." After enlarging upon the spoilsman policy of the President, the Oregon Senator closed with a plea for an extension of the Oregon plan of people's power, which would make Presidents directly accountable to party and general electorates. Mr. Bourne's closing words are a gem in political philosophy. "The composite citizen," he said, "knows more and acts from higher motives than any single individual, however great, experienced, or well developed;" for "in the composite citizen selfishness is minimized, while in the individual it is usually dominant."

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Democratic Achievement.

The National Democratic League of Clubs announces, in celebration of Jefferson's 168th birthday, a "Democratic Achievement Banquet" at Indianapolis on the 13th of April. The achievements noted are: "The overthrow of Cannonism and the restoration of representative government, publicity of campaign funds, an income tax amendment to the Constitution, election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people, railroad regulation, tariff reform, opposition to private monopolies, the promise of Philippine independence, and other reforms which the Democratic party have demanded." Some splendid democratic names are attached to the call, and we suppose that the projectors of the banquet cannot be responsible for those that are tarnished; but it is certain that the name of Gov. Colquitt of Texas can lend no luster, after the news of a recent veto of his gets around. The democracy of a Democratic Governor who vetoes a commission government form of charter on the ground that the Initiative, Referendum and Recall reserved in it to the people are a "dream of theoretic politicians" and "repugnant to the principles of liberty and law, the freedom of speech and every other guarantee

sacred to an American," is open to question. If such as he might happen to give tone to the proposed banquet, it were well for democratic Democrats to pause prudently for further information.

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People's Power.

If all political power originally resides in the electorate, and is derived from it, it is evident that the departments of government—legislative, executive and judicial—exist and operate by virtue of the electoral franchise exercised by citizen voters, and are directly responsible to the electorate for the performance of their functions. Not only are government officials directly and indirectly responsible to their constituencies, but they are so responsible at all times; and their constituencies should be able at any time to summon them to account for and to discharge them for failure to perform satisfactorily the duties of their office.

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The electorate in a democracy is the "people"; and government of the people, by the people, and for the people is *not* a government by the court, or a caucus, or a convention, or Congress. It is government by or under the control of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall; that is to say, by direct legislation. As long ago as 1780, the men of Massachusetts embodied this principle of fundamental democracy in their Constitution. They said: "Article Five. All power residing originally in the people, and being derived from them, the several magistrates and officers of government, vested with authority, whether legislative, executive or judicial, are their substitutes and agents, and are at all times accountable to them." This was seven years before the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia, the proceedings of which, as reported by James Madison, now show that the members of that body framed the Constitution for a "more perfect Union" in order to counteract the tendencies of a "turbulent democracy," represented by Samuel Adams, Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson—patriotic men of the Revolution who, it must be remembered, were not in that famous body.

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A Typical "Representative."

President Taft's appointment of Representative Duncan E. McKinlay, of California, to be Surveyor of the Port of San Francisco, is another illustration of a pernicious Presidential habit. Mr. McKinlay has for several years misrepresented a California district in Congress, being kept in his