

and goo-goos; but they will have to meet it with better arguments than verbal bludgeons or it will prevail over them and all their hosts.



Making a City Great.

Pittsburgh surely "do move." The latest evidence of her progressive tendency may be found in the Civic Bulletin for January, published by the Pittsburgh Civic Commission. Declaring that high prices of land obstruct progress in Pittsburgh—a declaration, by the way, that would fit any community—the Bulletin proposes a remedy by means of taxation. Its plan is to assess land and buildings at full value, and then to tax the land at its assessed value and buildings at half their assessed value. The effect would be a substitution for the present 15 mills tax on real estate, of 18 mills on land values and 9 mills on the value of buildings. In order to "allow adjustment of investments and prevent hardships," the Bulletin advises that "the change in rate should be spread over five years"—reducing the rate on buildings the first year to 90 per cent of that on land, the second year to 80 per cent, and so on by reductions of 10 per cent a year until 50 per cent is reached in five years. This sane suggestion is like the Marsh proposal in New York, which real estate speculators and their sympathizers are opposing, but nearly everybody else is advocating;* and the Civic Bulletin states that no amendment of the Constitution, but only a legislative act, is necessary to accomplish the purpose in Pittsburgh.



Governor Harmon's "Equality."

On his recent visit to Chicago, Governor Harmon of Ohio declared that the Creator treats us all about the same; that people who have an excess of favors in one way have a deficiency in regard to something else. For instance, one man who is blessed with a lot of money may have no children; while another man, who has no money at all, may be blessed with a big family. In this way the Creator evens things up, according to Governor Harmon, and nobody has a right to complain. A very comfortable philosophy, and doubtless attractive to the Interests toward which Governor Harmon looks for a Presidential nomination. Queer, isn't it? how your comfortable plutocrat always falls back on the Creator, instead of taking a straight look at facts and conditions that largely grow out of man-made laws. Remember how Taft put the problem of unem-

ployment squarely up to the Lord, and left it there? Remember how "Divine-Right" Baer wanted the Creator to settle the Pennsylvania coal strike? And now Harmon. These pious platitudes make more atheism than arguments ever did.



Governor Deneen, "Progressive."

Republican newspapers with plutocratic proprietors who pay to progressivism the traditional tribute by pretending to be in and of it, while losing no opportunity to obstruct or divert its course, are just now finding a text in the attitude of the Progressive Republicans of Illinois toward Governor Deneen, this body having denounced Governor Deneen as part and parcel of the Cannon-Lorimer kind of politics. It seems sacrilegious to those newspapers, this tandemizing of Deneen with Lorimer and Cannon. But Charles E. Merriam answers them to the point and truthfully. As one of the signers of the call for the Progressive conference in which the tandemizing was done, Professor Merriam explains that the statement "was carefully considered and deliberately made," because he and his associates—

believe that the cause of progress, the course of reform in the State of Illinois, long has been retarded not only by Lorimer and Cannon, but also, although in a different way, by the attitude and affiliations of Charles S. Deneen. His political beginnings were in the Lorimer creche. Carefully, furtively, and never cutting off the chance of return, he ventured out into the field as an ostensible enemy of his political mentor. His anti-machine battles have been sham battles. Every step of advance that he has taken has been crowded upon him by a popular force that he could not resist.

Ample confirmation of this view is available, not the least important item of which is Governor Deneen's record in the direct primary movement. In that movement he played the party machine game until he saw that it was played out. Nor is Governor Deneen happy in such defenders as his political friend Roy O. West. Dexterity in synchronizing the functions of a tax assessor in the public service with a phenomenal corporation practice at the bar is not a very good recommendation to Progressives, however satisfactory it may be to non-progressives and near-progressives. Even in his own defense Governor Deneen exhibits his ruling passion. While resenting the association of his name with Lorimer's—the latter having been "caught with the goods on him"—there is characteristic calm regarding the association of his name with Cannon's.

*See The Public, volume xiv, page 658.