

strong arm of the Czar sweeps Russia. We trust that Mr. Pulitzer will contest this question, and we wish him the success that Mr. Dana had. It is a vastly more important question than his exposure of the Isthmian canal conspiracy out of which it has grown, and it offers Mr. Pulitzer an infinitely more responsible and more exalted place as a champion of our traditional liberties.

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The Indiana Senatorship.

While it is to be regretted that John W. Kern, whose speech at Chicago during the Presidential campaign (vol. xi, pp. 602, 613, 769) stamped him unmistakably as a democratic Democrat, is not to represent his State in the United States Senate, the choice of Benjamin F. Shively as Democratic candidate is ample assurance that the Senatorial election in Indiana is not to be reactionary. Mr. Shively has long held a conspicuous place in the front rank of democratic Democrats.

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National Schools for National Service. 7

The movement for establishing a national school for the education of consuls is the beginning of what may prove to be a valuable innovation—valuable in more ways and to a greater extent than its promoters probably imagine. We have a West Point and an Annapolis for the education of official man-killers; why not a consular school for the education of officials whose business it is or should be to promote international commerce and friendship? The man-killer schools pay wages to their pupils, on condition that as graduates they shall serve in the army or navy for a given period; why not a similar investment in the education of peacemakers?

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It would be socialistic, of course. Not socialism, maybe; but socialistic. But what of that? Are not the West Point and the Annapolis academies socialistic except for their man-killing purposes? Are not our public schools and State colleges socialistic? Are not our postoffice department, our agricultural department, and our commerce and labor department, with all their incidents of money orders, experiment stations, and so on—are not these socialistic? Nor do these fill out the socialistic list by any means. It is too late in this country to object to any innovation as socialistic. We have already gone too far in socialistic directions, sometimes wisely and sometimes not, to permit ourselves to say that any-

thing otherwise good must be rejected because it is socialistic.

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The proposed consular school would be a good thing on its own merits. We could well go further and provide for the education of all subordinate public servants in the same way. We say subordinate because public service demands two kinds of officials. One kind are legislative and administrative officials, who control general policies and should come directly from the people; the other are bureau officials whose business it is to execute in detail, as experts, the policies which their elected superiors order to be executed. Why not educate all these subordinates, then, as we educate our army and navy officers, and as it is now proposed that we educate our representatives to foreign countries?

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La Follette's.

There is hopeful significance in the publication by such a man as Senator La Follette of such a periodical as La Follette's magazine. We have had periodicals of democratic Democracy; but La Follette's is the first that may be unreservedly and truly called democratic Republican. The breath of fundamental democracy has been breathed into its nostrils by a man who stands today for the kind of Republicanism that Abraham Lincoln stood for in the sixties.

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President-elect Taft and Private Property.

The President-elect, Mr. Taft, predicts a severe test of "the institution of private property;" and urges the lawyers of the country to work out the best plan to preserve it as far as possible, while at the same time preventing "the harmful use of private property in big corporations." He regards "the institution of private property" as having, "next to that of personal liberty, had more to do with the progress of civilization than any other institution;" but thinks present conditions require statutory regulations of "the use of private property wherever it is represented in combinations of capital." All this and more, in a speech before the Augusta (Ga.) Bar Association on the 11th.

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Was Mr. Taft right? That depends upon what he meant by the institution of private property. Negro slaves were in bondage once under the institution of private property. White Saxons were once enthralled by the institution of private prop-

erty. Russian serfs were claimed as appurtenant to the land under the institution of private property. Tax farming privileges were once secured by the institution of private property. Does Mr. Taft include these subjects of ownership when he speaks of private property as contributing to the progress of civilization?

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Evidently not, for he makes the institution of private property secondary to personal liberty as a promoter of civilization; and ownership of these kinds were assuredly incompatible with personal liberty. But isn't ownership of our modern special privileges, created by law, just as incompatible with personal liberty? and ought not this to be excluded from the category of commodities under the institution of private property? Isn't monopoly of the planet incompatible with personal liberty, and ought not that to be excluded from the category of commodities under the institution of private property?

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The soundness of what Mr. Taft said when he extolled the institution of private property depends upon what he includes. If he includes property in what the owner gets by mere force of law, regardless of justice, then civilization has been and always will be retarded, not promoted, to the extent of the effect of private property in such things. But if he includes only those products that are produced by the owner, or got by him in free and fair and untrammelled exchange from others with what he himself has produced, then all that Mr. Taft says is true. Private property in individual earnings, received on the basis of "the square deal," is an institution which, so far from being only second to personal liberty as a promoter of civilization, is indeed an essential element in any rational conception of personal liberty.

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Weeding a Chicago Garden.

The Municipal Voters' League of Chicago has adopted tactics suitable to the times. Time was when Chicago aldermen who menaced the interests of the city, were coarse in their methods and disreputable in their associations. If they grew rich in office, it was through nefarious transactions coming within the condemnation of good people, and under the penalties of the criminal law if proved. But after the Municipal Voters' League had largely displaced these ugly "gray wolves" with a pack of "business hounds," some of the latter began to fatten up by means of

transactions which, however reprehensible at bottom, are not generally condemned upon their face. Some new method was necessary, therefore, to meet new and respectable menaces to public interests, and for long the Voters' League was at a loss. But it seems now to have hit upon the right thing. It has addressed a series of questions to aldermen intending to run for re-election, among the questions being inquiries as to any financial interest of these aldermen in the securities of public utilities corporations. The League judiciously disclaimed any intention of intimating that aldermen with such personal interests might not be perfectly true to public interests, but suggested that the facts ought to be known so that their constituents might judge for themselves. The effect has been in some respects rather curious. Some aldermen not of the "gray wolf" class have changed their intentions as to running for re-election, and decided to get out of the race. They might have done this more gracefully by also answering the questions; but doubtless they have the right to disentangle their own embarrassments in their own way so long as they keep out of office. The Municipal Voters' League is to be congratulated upon its tactics—so gentle yet so effective.

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George C. Sikes for City Council.

If the people of the Thirty-fifth ward of Chicago really care for their own public interests, they will put down the political machines of both parties in that ward this year—the Roger Sullivan Democratic machine at the municipal primaries in February, and the Mayor Busse Republican machine at the municipal election in April—by nominating and electing George C. Sikes as alderman. Mr. Sikes has a record in public life in Chicago that would make his election a guarantee of alert and skillful service under all circumstances, and of good government so far as his official action could effect it. The Sullivan machine will prevent his nomination if possible; but it will not be possible if the good government Democrats of the ward take the trouble to express themselves at the primaries.

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Another Despotic "Business Charter."

The proposed charter for the city of Boston is of the despotic type of commission government, like that of Galveston, in contradistinction to the democratic type like that of Des Moines and the one proposed for Berkeley. It is another example of the old method of making democracy seem a fail-