

The La Follette Campaign.

Senator La Follette began his previously announced speaking campaign for progressive Republicanism through Ohio, with a noon day meeting at Youngstown on the 27th. His keynote was People's Government. "The question," he said, "is not one of railroad rates, nor of the tariff, nor one of national currency, but it is a question of whether there is a force stronger than the American people. Can the people of the United States, after more than a hundred years of trial, control their own government?" In the evening of the 27th he spoke at Cleveland, on the 28th at Toledo, on the 29th at Dalton, on the 30th at Cincinnati and on the 1st at Saginaw, Michigan. Elaborating his primary principle of People's Rule, Senator La Follette specifically advocates the Initiative, Referendum, Recall and votes for women, and opposes the Aldrich reserve association scheme. He had been preceded in the Ohio speaking campaign in behalf of progressive Republicanism by Senator Clapp of Minnesota, who made his first speech at Salem on the 26th. Gifford Pinchot also is speaking in the Ohio campaign. [See vol. xiv, pages 1077, 1099, 1147, 1246.]



Progressive Republicanism in Ohio.

Republicans of Ohio formed the Ohio Progressive League on the 1st at Columbus. Under the leadership of Gifford Pinchot and other supporters of Senator La Follette, the League voted 52 to 32 against endorsement of any person for Presidential nominee, and 81 to 11 in favor of the following:

We are opposed to the renomination of President Taft. We hereby declare it to be the determined purpose of the Ohio Progressive Republican League to work in harmony and unison to nominate a Progressive Republican for President, recognizing as fellow Progressives all who hold the principles for which we stand, whether they be for the presidential nomination of Robert M. La Follette, or Theodore Roosevelt or any other Progressive Republican. We assert the essential unity of the Progressive movement throughout the entire State and nation. We favor the election of delegates who will favor the nomination of a candidate who will fully represent the Progressive principle.

The platform unanimously adopted follows the lines of that adopted at Chicago, declaring for tariff protection to the extent of differences in wages at home and abroad, for popular election of United States Senators, for a graduated income tax, for direct primaries, Initiative and Referendum, the short ballot and a Presidential preference law. [See vol. xiv, pp. 79, 1099, 1147.]



Fighting Direct Legislation in Illinois.

A systematic campaign against the Initiative and Referendum was begun on the 26th by Re-

publican financiers and Big Business men of Chicago, under the auspices of the local Civic Federation and in the form of a petition to the County Committee of the Republican party urging it to give the Initiative, Referendum and Recall no place in any Republican platform. Among the signers are James B. Forgan, John J. Mitchell and George M. Reynolds (potentates in Chicago banking circles), E. J. Buffington (president of the Illinois branch of the Steel trust), John G. Shedd (representative of the Marshall Field interests), G. T. Buckingham (lawyer for the Beef trust), and Samuel Insull (chief of the great electric power trust). Julius Rosenwald and Rabbi Hirsch are also among the signers. In a responsive statement on the 27th, the Chairman of the Progressive Republican Committee of Illinois said:

The Pullman Company, the Commonwealth-Edison Company, the new Public Service corporation, the City Fuel Company, the Chicago Telephone Company, and many of the vast banking interests are represented by the men who signed this petition. On its face it appears as if the public utility companies, banks, and the big corporations who have been too perniciously active in politics, are appealing to the political bosses to try to undo the will of the people as expressed at the ballot box. The citizens of Illinois have voted nearly five to one in favor of the Initiative and Referendum. A primary law carried through the Legislature by Senator Walter Clyde Jones, the Progressive candidate for Governor, is now being disregarded both in intent and spirit by discredited political leaders.

[See vol. xiv, page 1055.]



Disclosures in the Beef-Trust Trial.

In line with the opening speech for the defense to the jury in the Beef-trust trial at Chicago, disclosures began with the testimony of the first witness for the prosecution, Albert H. Veeder, a legal adviser of the trust organizers. According to Mr. Veeder, who was called to the witness stand on the 26th, he was the legal organizer of the Beef-trust; it contemplated a merger of packing interests second only in size to the Steel-trust, and was intended to destroy all competition; but Eastern financiers withheld the necessary loans, and the proposed billion dollar trust became a mere fifteen million dollar corporation. This witness produced 13 contracts disclosing the original plans and the circumstances of their alleged collapse. They were respectively—

(1) Agreement between Swift, Armour and Morris, May 31, 1902, for the purchase in combination of their respective plants, worth \$182,000,000 for \$925,000,000 in bonds and preferred and common stock.

(2) Agreement of June 2, 1902, supplementary to above, providing for distribution of interests in the ratio of 46.70% for Swift, 40.11% for Armour, and 13.19% for Morris, upon the basis of an appraisement of tangible assets.

(3, 4 and 5) Agreements between Swift, Armour