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A conservative remembers but does not think.

Some Denver fakir is reported to have invented a system of "mental gymnastics" for muscular development. He says his patients "don't have to exercise at all—simply to think." This idea that thinking is easy accounts for many things. Yet, straight and honest thinking, with a sense of responsibility for results, is about as laborious work as mortals ever engage in.

Following the example of the American administration in the Philippines, the Virginia constitutional convention has voted against incorporating into the oath of office of the delegates a pledge to support the constitution of the United States. The reason is in each case the same—intention to violate or evade the constitution.

The grocers of Great Britain are giving their customers gratuitously much-needed lessons in fiscal science. A label taken from a package of tea has been sent us from London which reads: "Owing to increased duty this tea is advanced 2d. per pound." Lessons of that kind would not come amiss on this side of the Atlantic, where a belief prevails, fostered by our amiable president, that the tariff is paid by foreigners as an inducement to us to let them send their goods into our markets.

The struggle of the Boston Elevated railway to clinch its monopoly of the

streets of that city for 50 years has brought out the value of franchises of that sort in a striking manner. The corporation offered to construct the proposed Washington street subway, costing at least \$6,000,000, and give it to the city, free of cost, at the end of that term. The 50-years term was reduced to 40, before the bill was reported to the house, and still the company was eager to construct the subway and give it to the city for 40 years' monopoly. But the most interesting development of the fight, after all, was the dependence that is coming to be placed upon the referendum for the protection of the community against such schemes when legislatures prove false to the public interest. The majority in the house for the monopoly was overwhelming, including almost the entire democratic contingent from the city—a very significant "give-away." The bill made no provision for a referendum, although twice before referendums had been held on less important subway legislation. The main effort of the opponents came, therefore, to center upon an amendment providing for a referendum. In this effort were joined many conservative citizens to whom the referendum has heretofore been odious as smacking of populist devices. At the head of the movement was Gov. Crane himself, an extremely conservative capitalist. He squarely announced, at the critical moment, that he would sign no bill that did not provide for the submission of the act to a popular vote. The subsidized press, including republican organs, went wild over this unlooked for stand of the governor, charging him with not only interfering unlawfully with the legislative branch, but also with gross inconsistency, as he had refused, with equal determination, last year, to permit a popular vote on the absorption of the

Boston & Albany by the Vanderbilts, or on the consolidation of the Fitchburg with the Boston & Maine. But the governor was immovable. And when, despite his warning, the legislature passed the bill without a referendum clause, he for that reason promptly vetoed it. Gov. Crane is a distinguished gain for the referendum.

That so large a majority (for it was nearly up to two-thirds) should have been controlled by the Boston lobby in opposition to a referendum, is remarkable in the face of the fact that both parties of the state are on record in their platforms in favor of the referendum. The democratic platform of last year declared its condemnation of—

the present republican administration of this state for its subservency to monopoly. It has betrayed the confidence of the people. The refusal of the republicans to allow the referendum on the Boston & Albany lease is absolute evidence that it is the party of monopoly.

That lease was allowed by Gov. Crane, and his act allowing it is the basis of the present accusation of inconsistency. Yet democratic representatives join with republicans in voting against referendum on the subway bill. It is a pleasure to record in this connection the action of the Bryan club of Cambridge, which, though a democratic organization, has formally thanked the republican governor for his action on the referendum question. As the mover of the resolution put the matter, the republican governor "has saved the great democratic metropolis from its democratic representatives."

Philadelphia is not so fortunate in its chief magistrate. The most un-