

Estrada was not confined to the advocacy of the nationalization of land in his writings only; he brought the question into politics as well. For when the lands of the Church were to be sold by the Government, he advised that the state take possession of these lands, and rent to the highest bidders. He proposed this plan to the House of Representatives in 1836, but it met with severe defeat—with only 15 votes in favor of the measure. This defeat banished him from politics, and he never was able to re-enter.

I am inclined to think that the cause of all these failures was the same as of the failure of the French physiocrats—they saw only a part of the truth, applying their theory only to agricultural lands, leaving urban or city lands untouched.

For the materials of this brief sketch I am indebted to the book "Colectivismo Agrario," by Joachim Costa, Madrid, 1898. Under this misleading title the author gives a brief summary of the teachings of Henry George, Alvaro Flores Estrada, and Alfred R. Wallace, followed by an account of the Spanish laws and customs as proof of the soundness of these theories. But he also speaks merely from the agricultural point of view.

Finally I must mention that the leader of the Spanish Federal Republican party, the late Senor Francisco Pi y Margall, introduced into the party platform on June 22, 1894, the nationalization of land.

ANTONIO ALBENDIN.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for observing continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before, continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, August 23, 1910.

Voting at Direct Primaries.

At the primaries in California on the 16th the recent Insurgent victory in Kansas (p. 755) was repeated with unmistakable emphasis. Wherever the Insurgent Republicans made a stiff fight they appear to have won. William Kent (Insurgent) whose nomination The Public editorially urged (pp. 434, 651), defeated Congressman McKinlay (Standpat) in the Second or Sacramento district by a sweeping majority, the details of which are not yet at hand. Congressman Hayes (Insurgent) was easily renominated in the Fifth over Davison (Standpat). W. D. Stephens (Insurgent) defeated Congressman McLacklan (Standpat) by a large but indefinitely reported majority in the Seventh or Los Angeles district. Congressman Smith (Standpat) is variously reported to have been renominated, and defeated, in the Eighth or San Bernardino district. In the Fourth or San Francisco district Congress-

man Kahn (Standpat) was renominated unopposed. For Governor, Hiram W. Johnson (Insurgent), whose platform is "down with the machine and put the man above the dollar," was renominated over Chas. F. Curry (Independent Republican) by some 40,000 plurality, and over both Curry and Alden Anderson (Standpat), who ran low third and lost every county, by a clear majority. At the headquarters of the Lincoln-Roosevelt League in San Francisco it was claimed on the 18th that not only would the Insurgents have nine-tenths of the delegates to the State convention which will adopt the party platform, but that they will control both branches of the legislature which will elect a successor to United States Senator Flint. They explained that notwithstanding a close advisory vote for United States Senator, the result of which the official count must determine, John D. Work, their candidate for the party indorsement, has evidently won by a wide margin.

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The Democrats nominated for Governor at the same primaries, Theodore Bell (vol. xi, p. 323), who had no opposition; and Walter Macarthur, democratic Democrat (p. 650) was nominated in the San Francisco district to contest the election with Julius Kahn (Standpat Republican), of whom the regular news dispatches report that he will have a hard fight for re-election against Macarthur.

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In Nebraska, also on the 16th, the Republicans nominated A. L. Sutton (Insurgent) for Congress from the Second or Omaha district. Congressman Norris (Insurgent) was renominated without opposition in the Fifth district, and John F. Boyd (Insurgent) defeated Congressman Brian (Standpat) in the Third. Senator Burkett (Standpat) was renominated; and Aldrich (county option) defeated Cady for Governor.

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Mayor Dahlman of Omaha appears to have received a majority of about 2,000 for the Democratic nomination for Governor over Gov. Shallenberger, who, however, is nominated by the Populists. G. M. Hitchcock, of the Omaha World-Herald, was nominated as Democratic candidate for U. S. Senator over R. L. Metcalfe of Bryan's Commoner, by a large majority.

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Roosevelt's Return to Politics.

Since his return from abroad, ex-President Roosevelt (pp. 636, 637, 661, 674, 685, 723, 769) has been cautious about identifying himself with either the Insurgent or the Standpat wing of the Republican party; but on the 16th the Standpat managers of the party in the State of New York took action which is regarded in political circles as a declaration of political war against him.

Having been asked, more or less authoritatively, whether he would accept the temporary chairmanship of the Republican convention of the State to be held this fall, Mr. Roosevelt indicated his willingness to do so, but with suggestions that prove to have been unacceptable to the managers—unless it may be that they had already set themselves against him, an inference which their recent defeat of a direct primary bill in the legislature (p. 636) in opposition to his request might confirm. When the State committee met at New York City on the 16th the nomination by Lloyd C. Griscom (chairman of the New York county committee) of Mr. Roosevelt for temporary chairman of the convention, to meet at Saratoga on the 27th of September, was defeated by 20 to 15. The majority of five, voted for Vice-President Sherman, who afterwards declared in newspaper interviews his intention to accept.

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Upon being informed of the committee's action, Mr. Roosevelt gave out this statement for publication:

To the various persons who asked me whether I would accept the position of temporary chairman of the State convention I said that I would do so only if they were sure, after knowing my attitude, that they desired me, because my speech would be of such a character that it might help if the convention nominated the right kind of man on a clean cut progressive platform, but that it would hurt if neither the right kind of a man were nominated, nor the right kind of a platform adopted.

For a few days there was much newspaper excitement indicating a rupture between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft, in consequence of which the latter was induced by Mr. Griscom, as Mr. Roosevelt's political representative, to authorize publication of a statement. It is long and circumstantial and discloses an attitude of neutrality. "Whenever my advice or assistance in reaching a satisfactory adjustment of the difficulties arising has been sought," Mr. Taft concludes, "I have urged the necessity for the fullest conference with Mr. Roosevelt by the members of the organization." Part of the statement is regarded as involving Vice President Sherman ambiguously, but Mr. Sherman, when advised of the letter by President Taft, said he did not desire to see copies, and declined absolutely to make any comment or expression in reference to the matter. Mr. Roosevelt expressed his satisfaction with the President's statement.

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The Indians' Lands Investigation.

J. F. McMurray, who holds contracts with Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians for the sale for them of certain oil and mining lands for \$30,000,000 (said to be worth \$160,000,000) with a contingent fee for himself of 10 per cent, and who

needs the assent of Congress to complete these sales, was before the Congressional investigating committee (p. 782) at Sulphur, Oklahoma, on the 18th and examined all day upon the charges of Senator Gore that he, McMurray, had, through one J. L. Hamon, offered Senator Gore a bribe of \$25,000 and then \$50,000 to withdraw his opposition in the Senate to the land sales in question. He denied the accusation categorically. He also denied having offered a bribe of \$25,000 to the Choctaw lawyer, D. C. McCurtain. He further denied that any member of Congress or any employe of the government had any interest in his contracts.

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At the request of Senator Gore, the committee issued this statement on the 20th:

The committee has heard and carefully considered all the testimony submitted and is unanimous in the opinion that there is and was no warrant for any person to use the names of Vice-President Sherman and Senator Charles S. Curtis in connection with any improper relations with any Indian contract whatever.

Following is Senator Gore's formal request for the foregoing committee statement:

Neither the name of Vice-President Sherman nor of Senator Curtis was mentioned by me on the floor of the United States Senate. That the name of either of these persons was alluded to by Mr. Hamon was steadfastly withheld from the public until this investigation began. Their names are disclosed finally not with any view to inculpating them or with any view of suggesting guilt, but merely in order that the truth, and the whole truth, might be related with reference to the details of the conversation between Mr. Hamon and myself. While the public has had no reason to suspect any such improper connection, yet I would venture to request that the committee at the earliest practicable moment make an authoritative finding and statement to the effect that no evidence has been presented tending to establish any improper conduct on the part of either Vice-President Sherman or Senator Curtis respecting the subject of this investigation.

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Work of the Peoria Conference.

A report of the Committee of Seven of the Peoria Conference (p. 770), issued on the 16th by the chairman, Walter S. Rogers, from the committee headquarters, 1308 Unity Building, Chicago, to the signers of the call for the Peoria Conference, explains the Committee's work as follows:

As a general statement the committee is planning: (1) To get in touch, with a view to co-operation, with existing good government organizations and public spirited citizens who are willing to do something in the present political crisis in Illinois; (2) to prepare and distribute printed matter relating to political conditions in Illinois and the great issues before the people of the State; (3) to ask candidates to