

The Public

A National Journal of Fundamental Democracy &
A Weekly Narrative of History in the Making

LOUIS F. POST, EDITOR
ALICE THACHER POST, MANAGING EDITOR

ADVISORY AND CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

JAMES H. DILLARD, Louisiana
LINCOLN STEFFENS, Massachusetts
L. F. C. GARVIN, Rhode Island
HENRY P. RING, Texas
HERBERT S. BIGLOW, Ohio
FREDERIC C. HOWE, Ohio
MRS. HARRIET TAYLOR UPTON, Ohio
BRAND WHITLOCK, Ohio

HENRY GEORGE, JR., New York
ROBERT BAKER, New York
BOLTON HALL, New York
FRANCIS I. DU PONT, Delaware
HERBERT QUICK, Wisconsin
MRS. LONA INGHAM ROBINSON, Iowa
S. A. STOCKWELL, Minnesota
WILLIAM P. HILL, Missouri
C. E. S. WOOD, Oregon

JOHN Z. WHITE, Illinois
R. F. PETTIGREW, South Dakota
W. G. EGGLESTON, New York
LEWIS H. BERENS, England
J. W. S. CALLIE, England
JOSEPH FELS, England
JOHN PAUL, Scotland
GEORGE FOWLDS, New Zealand

Vol. XIII.

CHICAGO, FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1910.

No. 636

Published by LOUIS F. POST
Ellsworth Building, 367 Dearborn Street, Chicago

Single Copy, Five Cents Yearly Subscription, One Dollar

Entered as Second-Class Matter April 16, 1908 at the Post Office at Chicago, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:

Railroad Wages and Rates.....	529
Governor Folk.....	529
John Lind of Minnesota.....	529
An American Tory Abroad.....	529
Making It Easy to Do Wrong.....	530
Mr. Taft and Socialistic Issues.....	530
Public Service by the Wealthy.....	531
Mrs. Young's Triumph.....	531
A National Health Department.....	531
"Barbarous Mexico".....	532
Perpetual Franchises.....	532
Charles Frederick Adams.....	532

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE:

Australia (Ernest Bray and E. J. Craigle).....	535
A Day in New York (L. F. P.).....	538

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS:

The Divorce Question (Annie H. Quill).....	538
--	-----

NEWS NARRATIVE:

The Taft Railway Law.....	539
Litigation Over Railway Rates.....	539
Socialist Convention of Wisconsin.....	539
Women's Single Tax League.....	540
Teachers' Reception to Chicago's Superintendent of Schools.....	540
Taxation Reform in Ontario.....	540
Manitoba Labor Party.....	540
United South Africa.....	541
Mr. Roosevelt Advises the British Concerning Their Rule in Egypt.....	541
News Notes.....	542
Press Opinions.....	544

RELATED THINGS:

June (Ethel Carnie).....	545
A Bribery Lesson (Stoughton Cooley).....	545
The Energetic Citizen Gets An Idea (Howard M. Holmes).....	546
For a Senate Elected by Popular Vote (Wm. Sulzer).....	546

BOOKS:

A Question.....	547
A Personification of Capitalism.....	547
Common Honesty.....	548
Books Received.....	548
Periodicals.....	548

EDITORIAL

Railroad Wages and Rates.

When railroad managers plead the necessity for higher freight rates in order to pay higher wages to their employes, they should be admonished to meet this increased expense by reducing the wages of their watered stock.

+ +

Governor Folk.

If the Democrats of Missouri intended by their Folk dinner on the 2d to put Gov. Folk forward as a candidate for President their object was not thwarted by the Governor's speech. The keynote question in this excellent democratic speech, "Shall there be government by privilege for a class, or government by the people for all?" he answered with specific statements and the ring of fundamental democracy.

+ +

John Lind of Minnesota.

Minnesota never had a better Governor nor democratic Democracy a better Congressman than John Lind, whose nomination for another term as Governor is reported to be certain, and his election highly probable notwithstanding that Minnesota is a strong Republican State.

+ +

An American Tory Abroad.

Isn't it high time for worshippers of Mr. Roosevelt to take account of stock? There has never

been anything about him to deserve a patriotic man's confidence or a self-respecting man's admiration, although he seems to have commanded both and in high degree; but now he stands exposed to the thinking world as the brutal swash-buckler which his whole public career, when thrown into proper perspective, proves him to have been. One correspondent tells of his roughly commanding a passenger in a public elevator to take off his hat. Whether the man ought in courtesy to have taken off his hat is beyond the question in so far as it affects Mr. Roosevelt. The point as to him is that hardly any breach of good manners touches so low a level of boorishness as a conspicuous correction of another person's lapse in etiquette. If this elevator incident is a true story, Mr. Roosevelt's part of gentleman was poorly played. But the story, however well it illustrates his personal politeness, may not be true. Of his prepared speech at Guildhall, however, there can be no dispute; and this was the elevator incident over again, but magnified to the dimensions of international politeness and supplemented with an unpatriotic spirit. Taking advantage of his opportunities as the guest of a British city, he made an offensively partisan speech, which was impolite; and in that speech he advised the British government to treat the people of Egypt as George III and Lord North tried to treat the American colonies, which was unpatriotic. Whatever opinion his admirers may have of Mr. Roosevelt's acrobatic manners, it is difficult to understand how those of them who are not themselves Tories can admire his Toryism. Yet it is as a Tory that Mr. Roosevelt plainly revealed himself in his Guildhall speech—and a Tory at that of the period of George the Third.

+ +

Making It Easy to Do Wrong.

One of the best of statements regarding war was made in an Evanston church this week by a Scottish clergyman, the Rev. Walter Walsh of Dundee. "I believe," he said, "that most nations, as well as individuals, want to do right, but in the past it has been difficult to do right and easy to do wrong in international disputes because we had only the machinery of wrong-doing."

+ +

Mr. Taft and Socialistic Issues.

If in his Michigan speech in commemoration of the birth of the Republican party fifty-six years ago, President Taft intended to check the spread of socialistic sentiment in the United States, he went about it in a blundering way. It was precisely this kind of talk about abolitionism by

Democratic statesmen in the fifties that brought out the party whose birth Mr. Taft's speech has just celebrated. More and more as the days go by and event follows event, does it seem that Mr. Taft may pass into history as another James Buchanan—the last President, and a fatuous one, of a party which began as a champion of liberty and went to pieces in defense of slavery. And how very like Mr. Buchanan all round Mr. Taft does seem to be!

+

What President Taft had in mind as socialism when in his speech he promised the well-trained service of the Republican party to put it down, is not socialism; neither is it any other kind of social creed. Far be it from us to accuse Mr. Taft of intentional distortion, difficult as it is to harmonize his words with a statesman's intelligence in this part of his speech, but his notion of socialism is antiquated. He thinks it proposes to abolish private property. And the persons he alludes to as "socialists" are not those of socialist organizations, but those that hail as leaders such Republicans as La Follette and such Democrats as Bryan. In fact, however, there is no considerable number of Americans who favor the abolition of private property. There are not so many now as there were when President Taft was a boy. Except for a small number, who may be distinguished as "communists," nobody at all in this country favors the abolition of private property. Everybody to whom President Taft alludes advocates private property. Where they come in conflict with President Taft and his plutocratic supporters is over their opposition to private property in public property.

+

This is the crux of the whole matter with all Mr. Taft's "socialist" adversaries—from the mildest economic reformer to the most extreme socialist. The differences between these arise over the question not of private ownership of private property (they all advocate that), but of what things fall into the category of private property. The socialist draws this line in principle at property which enables its owner to extort property from producers; and doubtless all others to whom President Taft alludes draw the line at the same point, though they disagree as to the particular kinds of property that fall within the principle. Setting the Republican party up in opposition to this principle, President Taft proclaims it in effect the champion of private property in the kinds of property that enable the owners to extort property from producers of property.