

# The Public

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

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## EDITORIAL

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### John Lind Again to the Front.

A democratic Democrat in Congress, a democratic Democrat and efficient executive as Governor of Minnesota, a democratic Democrat in the ranks of citizenship upon his withdrawal from public life, John Lind's return to Democratic leadership is one of the most welcome of probabilities. An overwhelming sentiment for his nomination for governor is reported as the result of the Democratic county conventions of last week.

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### Senator Bourne's Speech.

We recently published (p. 616) an extended summary of the speech of Senator Bourne, of Oregon, in the United States Senate, on "Popular vs. Delegated Government," and now are sending a copy of the speech in full to all our subscribers. Copies of this speech to the number of 800,000 have been distributed, mainly by insurgent Republicans, but also by Democrats, and by the American Federation of Labor, Direct Legislation leagues, and other non-partisan organizations. The demand now exceeds a million copies. The farmer organizations in many States, notably the granges, are planning to have the speech read and discussed in all their local lodges. It has been published in full in several papers and in extended form in many others. This tends to show how intense and widespread is the interest in the Oregon plan of people's government. The rapid ex-

tension of other movements for popular control, like the commission plan of government, the democratic federation for the establishment of the people's rule within the Democratic party, the proposed organization of a similar federation within the Republican party by progressive Republicans, and plans for greater aggressiveness politically on the part of non-partisan organizations, all indicate that with a little extra effort now, when primaries are being held, candidates selected and platforms written, the principle of popular control might be made the paramount issue in many States, or at least so much of an issue as to insure its becoming the paramount national issue at no distant day. These are among our reasons for sending a copy of Senator Bourne's remarkably convincing speech directly to our subscribers. We suggest that they put those copies to the best possible use to arouse or quicken interest. It is desirable that these be kept in active circulation. We will furnish additional copies on request. The fact that a million copies of this speech have been called for, should be enough in itself to arouse the interest of another million readers, if the fact and the reasons therefor are given sufficient publicity.

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#### **A Romance in Statesmanship.**

A romance in statesmanship is said to attach to Senator Bourne's "people's rule" speech. Mr. Bourne had represented Oregon in the Senate for three years before speaking on any subject. "He was a speechless Senator," says the Cleveland Press, which thus tells the story of his maiden speech:

Finally, however, the spirit moved, and Bourne wrote a speech. He intended to deliver it, orator fashion, but got buck fever and simply read it. In the Senate it fell flat. The United States Senate is not interested in treatises on "Restoring the Government to the People." But the people themselves got wind of the fact that Bourne had made a speech. They wrote in and asked for copies of the speech. So Senator Bourne had a few printed for distribution. Then he had some more printed. To date, nearly a million copies of the speech have been sent out, and the demand is as brisk as ever. Evidently the question of restoring the government to the people interests 'em. This is a boiled down version of the circumstances of Senator Bourne's speech on popular government in Oregon.

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#### **An Objection to Direct Legislation.**

In its muddled objections to the initiative and referendum in Oregon, the New York Times deserves sympathy rather than blame. Object it must, to anything like government of the people

by the people, except as an oratorical lilt; and Oregon is anyhow only a province far away back of New York's back door. But the Times is greatly disturbed because Oregon is to vote next fall on no less than thirty-two propositions. The Times thinks the people of Oregon can't handle all those propositions intelligently. Maybe not. But with terse arguments for and against each, written by authorized proponents for and opponents against, and placed in a handy printed volume into the hands of every registered voter in Oregon, as the Oregon law requires, they are at least as likely to produce an intelligent result at the polls, as by voting for representatives, like buying pigs in pokes, and leaving the rest to them. Besides, when Oregon legislatures realize that the Oregon initiative and referendum have come to stay, and that if legislatures block the way to desired laws, or enact bad ones, the people will take the matter into their own hands, there will no longer be as many questions for initiative or referendum action. Legislatures will then go seriously to work to represent the people's will instead of trying to thwart it. Our friends in that effete East where the New York Times is influential, may find a perfect answer to it in Mr. Eggleston's letter in Editorial Correspondence (p. 703) this week. We urge all our readers who may doubt the value of the Oregon plan of people's government, to read that letter; also to read Senator Bourne's speech when they get their copy from us, and to read it carefully and thoughtfully. Those who do not doubt, may strengthen their arguments by reading it, and promote a good movement by passing it on to some doubter they know, and then sending for more copies for other doubters.

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#### **Women and "the Dirty Pool" of Politics.**

Without personal animus but with all charity, Dr. Anna E. Blount made great good use, in one of her woman suffrage speeches last week, of the reply of Lee O'Neil Browne, the Democratic leader in the Illinois legislature, whose trial for bribery has resulted in a disagreement of the jury (p. 614), to an advocate of woman suffrage who asked his legislative support for a suffrage measure. Dr. Blount quoted Mr. Browne as replying: "I love my mother too well to allow her to descend into the dirty pool of politics." The simple comment of Dr. Blount was that Mr. Browne's characterization of politics as a "dirty pool," seems now to have indicated his own peculiar kind of politics. It is indeed coming to be a fair inference that politicians and business men who want to keep