

will be a stronger recommendation of those who suffered it to public confidence than any certificates which those who caused the defeat can give. When the people of Colorado realize the fraud that has been perpetrated upon them, Bucklin will be the recognized and probably triumphant leader of Democracy in that State. This is not a prophecy, it is only a recognition of a characteristic of human nature.

Clarence S. Darrow, who was elected to the Illinois legislature from Chicago as a candidate of the Public Ownership league, will be supported by John J. McManaman, a candidate of the same organization, who was reported at first to have been defeated but is now known to have been elected.

By a vote of 42 to 16 the Chicago city council has placed itself in opposition to low tolls for public service corporations and in favor of high tolls with a heavy city tax on gross receipts. That is what the monopoly corporations wish for. If they must pay for their privileges, they prefer the gross receipts tax. There are many reasons for this. For one thing, it offers excellent opportunities for cheating the city in the levying of the tax. For another, even if the tax were fully paid, it would leave a larger net toll to be collected of the person served than if the tax were remitted and the corporations required to render cheap service. Evidently the majority of the present council are good men to defeat next Spring. They are either voting consciously in the interest of the corporations or are doing so ignorantly. In either case they are unfit. Any man who believes that city taxes ought to be collected in car fares is unfit to legislate in the interest of the people. He belongs on the side of the corporations and the real estate speculators and should be "spotted" accordingly.

In Texas a movement is under way for restricting the suffrage to poll-

tax payers. At the coming session of the legislature a constitutional amendment will be submitted requiring the production of a poll-tax receipt as a condition of voting. The amendment is almost certain to be adopted both by the legislature and by the people, because its real purpose is to disfranchise Negroes. That is no reason, however, why its advocates should advocate it upon false grounds. Their argument that the poll-tax is the citizen's contribution to the State for protecting his person is very old, very plausible, and absolutely false. Every citizen who pays for the State's protection to his person does so when he pays his rent, or when he buys land for himself. The proof of this is simple and convincing. In a state where everybody's life was continually unsafe, rent would be low and land cheap. But let the State make life secure, and rents and land prices would instantly go up. Nobody cares to rent or buy land where life is constantly in peril. It is not the poor Negroes of Texas who pay nothing for personal protection except when they pay toll taxes. Their landlords collect of them in rents their contributions for that purpose. If in addition they pay a poll tax they are taxed twice for protection—once by the State and once by their landlords.

A curious reader of the Chicago Record-Herald, a Republican paper though exceptionally independent of party dictation, has asked it to explain why the United States is short of gold notwithstanding our much-boasted favorable balances of trade. He doesn't understand why we should be borrowers if we are creditors. Neither does the Record-Herald, apparently; for while it furnishes its curious correspondent with much valuable information on the subject of international trade, it utterly fails to explain the paradox that excites his curiosity. The obvious explanation is, of course, that we have had no really favorable balances. Our enormous excess of exports is largely not a basis for credit against which

we may draw, but a drain upon our resources in the nature of tribute.

One of the stock objections to woman suffrage is the assumption that voting can be done only in places where it would not be nice for women to go. But experience knocks out this objection. In Colorado, where women are voters, their disinclination to going to cigar stores and barber shops is resulting not in their staying away from the polls but in their demanding better voting places and getting them. One of the finest homes in Denver was selected this year for the polling place of one of the voting precincts.

In affiliating with the Federation of Labor, the school teachers organization of Chicago may or may not have made a mistake. That is for the members to decide. But some of the criticisms upon their action are only calculated to excite contempt. One of these is the objection that teachers belong to a profession and ought not to affiliate with hod carriers. The man or woman who makes that objection is a snob. To object to the adoption of trade union methods raises a legitimate issue for discussion. But to object to the affiliation of teachers with the fathers of the children they teach and by whom their salaries are paid, when those fathers earn their incomes by manual work, is to argue the incapacity of the objector for the duties of a teacher.

On the question of the methods of trade unions, it is not fair to condemn them without consideration of the circumstances out of which they arise, as the president of Harvard, for instance, has done. In that attitude toward trades unionism there is a degree of imbecility which merits the scorn of thoughtful men. If laborers were at liberty to make free contracts, there would be force in the objection to organizations of labor unions for the purpose of coercing employers. But for the man who has nothing but his labor to bring to market there is no free contract. He