

Republican Senator at his side and asked how his party dared do such things. "Why not?" was the response. "Haven't we been doing them for years?" So they have, and not in New Jersey alone.

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But why are they able to? Because "Jim-Jim" machines cover the Democratic party all over with political filth. When the Democrats controlled the lower House in New Jersey two years ago, "Jim" Nugent sat in a room at the State House, and dictated his and "Jim" Smith's policies to the Democrats on the floor, from A to Zed. It is no sweet fragrance that enables Republican machines to outrage public rights when in power, for they really are not sweet; it is the foulness of the Democratic machine, which is so excessive that it smothers the Republican stench. When these two machines work in partnership, the "Jim-Jim" Democrats furnishing mystifying and poisonous odors, while the Republicans "take the trick" and divide the plunder, they are as effective in politics temporarily, as masked batteries and stink-pots used to be in war.

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The Coming of a Central Bank.

Whoever read the newspaper reports of the bankers' convention at Chicago last week, must have been interested in the agitation for a big central bank, and impressed with the progress the proposition made. A strong movement for this new mechanism of monopoly is doubtless under way. For a long time sporadic suggestions along this line have been noticeable, but the time seems now to be near when Big Business will demand the central bank with an open mouth and reach for it with an outstretched hand. There is reason to believe that a definite program has been under discussion by the Interests for more than three years. Their plan seems to contemplate the centralization of all the banking interests of the country in the National City Bank of New York, of which Frank A. Vanderlip is president. It is generally known as "the Standard Oil bank."

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Are They Siamese Twins?

President Taft says that he stands with the men who stand with him. Specifically he meant Congressman Tawney, the only Minnesota Congressman who lined up with Cannon, Aldrich, and Big Business at the recent session of Congress. So Mr. Tawney stood not only with Big Business but also with Mr. Taft, which is Mr. Taft's reason for standing with Mr. Tawney. And is

this likewise his reason for standing with Senator Aldrich? Was it President Taft as well as Big Business that Senator Aldrich stood with when he forced through his upward revision of the tariff? It would seem so. For isn't President Taft acting as advance agent for Senator Aldrich's forthcoming swing around the circle in the interest of Wall Street buccaneers? Isn't he giving Senator Aldrich a certificate of good character as a patriot? Aren't they swinging around the circle together, as it were—two minds turned on Big Business thoughts, two hopes that yearn as one? In this union there is danger for President Taft. A Siamese twinship is an uncomfortable connection at best; and when one of the twins is diseased, danger is added to discomfort. If Mr. Taft unifies the circulation of Senator Aldrich's political blood with his own, an amputation may be necessary to save him, and even that may fail.

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The White Man's Country.

If this is "a white man's country," where is the Negro to go? Africa used to be recommended; but now Africa also is a "white man's country." None but "persons of European descent" are to have political rights there. If white men are not more careful, black men will begin to regard their good faith with suspicion.

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Simple and Equitable Taxation.

The scintillant Elbert Hubbard throws a flash of white light upon questions of taxation, when he advocates the Henry George idea. "To tax land values," he says, "would be the simple, easy and common sense plan. Land lies right out under the sky. You can locate it and appraise it. The only objection to taxing land values is the fact that big land owners oppose it. The plan offers no chance for concealment or evasion. A tax law that admits of evasion—aye! that invites it—is a wrong to everybody. We may want to be honest, but when everybody dodges taxes we fall into line and say we have to dodge too. A good law is one that makes it easy for us all to obey it. The man who owns a little home is the only man who now pays his full quota. He can't hide his house and he has no influence in the senate. If he paints his house or puts on a veranda, the tax gatherer knows all about it, and raises the assessment. To let the little home go free, encourage home making, and tax the men who own big and valuable tracts of land is the equitable plan."