

“forward” for plundering the “backward”—in order to come directly to the point, also historically true, which is that no superimposed government which once postpones the grant of self-government ever confers it voluntarily. If you admit the soundness of postponing it until the people are ready for it, you cannot deny the soundness of making the postponement perpetual. For there is only one way given under heaven whereby any people can learn self-government, and that is by practicing self-government.

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The Lawless Police Sweatbox.

It is refreshing to those of us who have protested against the unlawful police sweatbox (p. 587), to read in a Chicago Record-Herald's dispatch from Quebec regarding the arrest by a Scotland Yard detective of Dr. Crippen and Miss Leneve, the statement with special reference to the latter that—

no attempt has been made by the officials to obtain a statement from her in addition to the formal questions asked at her examination to-day; the intimidation of suspected persons is abhorrent to the British notion of justice, and if Miss Leneve makes any statement it will be of her own volition.

This is in accordance with the law—the law in the United States as well as in Great Britain and Canada. Its violation in Great Britain would menace a ministry; but in this country, detectives too lazy or too incompetent for intelligent detective work, defy it by making short cuts to criminal convictions through extorted confessions from suspects. Being extorted—through fear, hope, hypnotism, physical violence, or all four—these confessions are as likely to be false as true. More likely, it may be. But all this is no affair of your lazy or incompetent law-breaking American detective. What he is after is not justice; it is verdicts of guilty, regardless of justice.

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H. Martin Williams.

One of the candidates for the Democratic nomination for the lower house of the legislature of Illinois in the 46th senatorial district, is H. Martin Williams, of Woodlawn, Jefferson county. No matter who loses in that district, Williams ought to win both at the primary and at the election. Personally he is an excellent man, which is good; but it is for better than personal reasons that his nomination and election are to be desired. He has an extended experience and acute understanding of legislative work, which also is good; but it is not this in addition to his personal qualities that

makes it desirable that he be nominated and elected. Besides having personal character and legislative experience, Mr. Williams is a fundamental democrat in all that those words imply; and has been so, through thick and thin, in sunshine and shadow, for more than thirty years. When he explains his present candidacy as springing from his hope to “accomplish something in the interest of the men and women of Illinois who produce the wealth and bear the burdens of government,” he knows what that means, and he means it, too. It is not a platitude. He stands for the initiative, the referendum and the recall, and these are not novelties with him. He is for the election of U. S. Senators directly by the people, for a corrupt practices act, for the merit system of public service, for the heavy ad valorem taxation of valuable lands held for speculative purposes, and for all, in absolute sincerity. Mr. Williams is a pleasing speaker, rugged and powerful, and in the legislature of Illinois would be an effective fighting member for the right side. Of course he is opposed by the Interests and by the kind of Democrats that keep in touch with the Interests.

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The English League For Land Values Taxation.

This League, which was active in the Budget fight (p. 417) and has just passed its twenty-seventh birthday, made an interesting report of its last year's work down to June 30, in anticipation of the annual meeting in July. E. G. Hemmerde, K. C., M. P., Recorder of Liverpool, who succeeded Josiah C. Wedgwood, M. P., as president a year ago, was succeeded this year by Henry George Chancellor, M. P., with whom as vice presidents are George N. Barnes, M. P. (Parliamentary leader of the Labor parties), W. P. Byles, M. P., the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam (of the London County Council), F. G. Hindle, M. P., John Paul, Wilson Raffan, M. P., C. P. Trevelyan, M. P., C. H. Smithson (of the Halifax Town Council), Thomas F. Walker of Birmingham, L. W. Zimmerman, J. P., of Manchester, R. L. Outhwaite, Ignatius Singer and Franklin Thomason. Lewis H. Berens as treasurer and Frederick H. Verinder as secretary, manage the executive work. Following a survey of the past year, the report makes this statement of policy with reference to the Lloyd George Budget: “The valuation is already in progress. We must urge the Government to complete it as quickly as possible, and to make the results public. Then comes the question of the use to which the valuation, when completed, is to be put. No real advance can be made

till the national valuation is available: for no possible increase of such taxes as the 'land values duties,' imposed for valuation purposes in the 1909-10 Budget, will bring us any nearer a true taxation of land values. The representatives of all the Leagues that form the United Committee (pp. 629, 660, 702) are now considering the details of a practical programme for the immediate future."

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A SUGGESTION FOR DENVER, OF GENERAL APPLICATION.

I.

Denver is to have a water plant for her "very own," as the children say.

If the election of May 17th did not prove this, the demonstrated inability of the present water company to forestall and provide for the needs of a great city would make it certain. Year after year the citizens of Denver have tolerated shortages, restrictions, and high prices, with remarkable patience; but the latest "drouth," pushed into the most damaging season of the year, has brought to mind all that we have endured in times past, and showed even to some conservatives who thought the time for city ownership was not yet, that prompt action on the part of the municipality is the only remedy for an intolerable condition.

Therefore, I do not intend to use any argument to show the advantage of or the necessity for public ownership. But there is one point to be considered without which consideration the question can not be intelligently and economically settled at the September election.

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"A million dollars" can be said in a breath; but suppose you try to *think* it. The average mind does not think in millions. Units, tens, hundreds, even thousands, may be comprehended, but going farther than that a sort of confusing nebula seems to envelope all but exceptional minds. Especially is this true when it comes to dollars.

Let us reduce the amount to something more tangible than dollars, say houses or days' work.

How much is \$1,000,000? How many cottages at \$2,500 each would it pay for? How many days' work at \$2 per day does \$1,000,000 represent?—that is, how many days, how many years, must a man work at \$2 per day to earn \$1,000,000, counting 300 working days to the year?

At that rate how much, how many days', how many years' work, would the Denver Union Water Company's plant cost at \$7,000,000?

Estimating its population at 200,000 (for convenience), how many days' work would that be for every man, woman and child in Denver?

How much would be the interest on \$1,000,000 for one year at 4 per cent? On \$7,000,000?

How much for 30 years?

These are some of the questions that the citizens of Denver must answer before they can intelligently vote on the question of water bonds.* Incidentally the answers will help to show how much of the value of the D. U. Water Co.'s plant is made of days' work and how much of other things—"reasonable return for money invested," etc.

II.

Lest you can not spare the time to figure out the answers to the questions in the first part of this writing, I have for myself learned that \$1,000,000 would pay for 400 houses at \$2,500 each, and that \$7,000,000 would therefore pay for 2,800 houses at that price—enough for quite a respectable little city.

Now let us see what \$1,000,000 represents in days' work at \$2 per day. To earn \$1,000,000 a man must work 500,000 days. Counting 300 working days to the year he must work 1,666 years and 200 days.

Therefore, \$7,000,000 represents 11,666 years—not days but years—of work at two dollars a day. *Eleven thousand six hundred and sixty-six years* is a long, long time; yet that length of time in days' work at \$2 a day is the least we are asked to consider for Denver water bonds.

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The interest on \$7,000,000 for one year at 4 per cent would be \$280,000, and for 30 years, the time I have heard proposed, it would be \$8,400,000—more than the original cost of the plant.

And that interest does not pay one cent of the cost. The debt still remains \$7,000,000 as at the beginning. Is that the best possible way for Denver to acquire a water system?

I do not like to be in bondage to a water company, but it is hardly worse than being a servant to bond-holders.

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The foregoing is preliminary to a protest against acquiring a water plant by the usual method—the issue of long-time interest-bearing bonds of large denominations to outside parties.

Instead of this, can we not have a "popular loan"?—one in which at least every tax-payer

*The election in Denver comes off on the 6th of September.—Editors of The Public.