

The Public

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

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Vol. XIII.

CHICAGO, FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1910.

No. 629

Published by Louis F. Post
Ellsworth Building, 357 Dearborn Street, Chicago

Single Copy, Five Cents Yearly Subscription, One Dollar
Entered as Second-Class Matter April 16, 1898 at the Post Office at
Chicago, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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EDITORIAL

Sociological Laboratory Work.

Chicago newspapers report the members of a Sociology Club of the city of Chicago as making a study of "just how the city's poor live," by scrutinizing the places where they live. As far as it goes, good. But laboratory work of that kind can hardly be considered as complete without a like study of "just how" the city's rich live. The House of Want cannot be understood unless the House of Have is understood also.



Self-Supporting Government Business.

Since the Federal authorities are boasting of the possibility of making the postal department self-sustaining, why do they not try also to make the naval department pay for itself? There is no more reason for making the mail service pay for itself in dollars and cents directly than there is for making the naval service pay for itself in the same way. If the naval service is worth its keep for what it earns indirectly, isn't the postal service too?



The Suffragists and President Taft.

Although not a nice thing, it may be, to have hissed President Taft's speech of welcome at the National Women's Suffrage Convention in Washington, it was he that offended first. As the official head of the city where it met, he was at the convention to extend the city's welcome. If

he did not agree with its object, he could have remained away; or, having gone, he might have explained his position sufficiently to prevent a misinterpretation of his presence as an endorsement. But by misusing his address of welcome to make a partisan speech flatly in opposition to the object of the convention, he was guilty of a blunder in taste which from a man of keener perceptions might have seemed very like a studied insult. The convention, by apologizing for the spontaneous hissing which Mr. Taft had provoked and which it could not prevent, has shown in extraordinarily high degree the very self-restraint which he implied that suffrage-seeking women do not possess.

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Mr. Taft's principal argument against women's suffrage was as offensive a fling at the working-women of the United States as the impropriety of the occasion he chose for it was to those who impulsively hissed. Unless he alluded to workingwomen, his argument was twaddle, for there are no other large enough classes of women to whom the unfavorable distinction he made could apply. As to his plea for evidence of capability for the suffrage before it is granted, it was too trifling to call for any other response than that no intelligence at all is necessary to qualify for voting up to the Taft standard. His attack upon the Insurgent Republicans for not standing pat with their party shows that by his standards the most idiotic voter "votes intelligently" if he votes with Mr. Taft's faction.

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By the way! During the Presidential campaign, didn't Mr. Taft pose as a women's suffragist? And wasn't Mr. Bryan put, by guileless women suffragists, upon a lower political plane than Mr. Taft because he refused to express himself on the subject in a national campaign in which it was not a national issue? From that episode of the campaign, and this later one of the suffrage convention, some folks might be wicked enough to draw conclusions in a candor contest not altogether favorable to Mr. Taft.

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When Women Vote.

At the school board election last week in Oak Park, a suburb of Chicago, the notion that women won't vote if they have the right to, received another blow in the face. Not only did they vote in large numbers there, but they carried the election. Women are pretty much like men in the matter of voting. They vote when they are in-

terested. If a difference is to be recognized, it is perhaps as to what interests them; men are interested in getting the kind of graft they like, and women in opposing the kind they don't like.

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The Socialist Vote in Milwaukee.

Inferences that the Social-Democratic party in Milwaukee has won the recent municipal election (pp. 339, 346) by non-Socialist votes cast in a fit of temper at the old Democratic and Republican regimes are disputed. It is argued that the Socialist party vote for Mayor has steadily increased since 1898, and that the triumph at the recent election was achieved by proportionate gains. The additional point is made that the Socialist vote for President, which may be fairly considered a strict party vote, has kept pace with the city vote. We therefore tabulate the Social-Democratic vote since 1898, for its bearing upon the point in dispute:

Mayor in 1898 (Milwaukee).....	2,414
Governor in 1898 (Milwaukee Co.).....	2,544
Mayor in 1900 (Milwaukee).....	2,473
President in 1900 (Milwaukee Co.).....	4,874
Mayor in 1902 (Milwaukee).....	8,453
Governor in 1902 (Milwaukee Co.).....	10,881
Mayor in 1904 (Milwaukee).....	15,056
President in 1904 (Milwaukee Co.).....	18,339
Mayor in 1906 (Milwaukee).....	16,837
Governor in 1906 (Milwaukee Co.).....	17,031
Mayor in 1908 (Milwaukee).....	20,887
President in 1908 (Milwaukee Co.).....	17,496
Mayor in 1910 (Milwaukee).....	27,708

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Socialist Spoils of Office.

"No application from Socialists for appointments," is the report of Mayor Seidel, the Socialist mayor of Milwaukee. What is the use of commenting upon that? It speaks for itself.

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Corporation Publicity.

With the sanction of the Administration at Washington, Congress is amending the corporation tax law so as to give the President the absolute power to publish or conceal, use or misuse, the information obtained under that law, by providing that reports made under it by corporations—not small or competitive corporations, merely, but the monopoly giants also, shall—

be open to inspection only upon the order of the President, under rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury and approved by the President.

Is there possibly any connection between that amendment and circumstances to which the fol-