

of British democracy—the farthest advanced and most advancing democracy, political and religious, to be found anywhere on earth today—those gorgeous emblems of mediaeval monarchism and paganistic pieties had a wholesome human meaning. There was a toy throne, a toy crown, a toy king and consort. They were surrounded by toy aristocrats in a curio church-edifice, and there were toy ecclesiastics to officiate at the toy crowning. Outside, for the entertainment of commoner and the commonest crowds, which lined the streets with only purchasable places for distinction, there was a procession of more or less animate toys skilfully arranged in sets and brilliantly costumed. Expensive it all was, and the expense was wrung from the sweat of labor; yet it was less expensive than dreadnaughts, and it exacted no toll of human life besides the sweat. It was archaic, yet interesting and instructive if only for that reason. But above all it was suggestive, sublimely suggestive. That which made it so was its function of symbolizing the submission of the despotic past peaceably to the democratic future. It was the Tenth Century stretching a friendly hand across the interval to bid the Twentieth Century godspeed.

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Regenerate Mexico.

Most of our information about Mexico under the new regime is gratifying. The leaders seem in the main to be brainy men and honest. But they have a difficult task before them. The moral stamina of the country was sapped by the Diaz dynasty. Greed and graft were so long and steadily triumphant as to take on a flavor of legitimacy the taste of which survives. "Where's our share?" is an unasked question but a potent sentiment with which Madero, Gomez, Rodriguez, Gonzales and others among the new leaders may have to cope, and possibly to their undoing. Many will "want theirs," and failing to get it as the supporters of Diaz did, may turn back from following the leaders who have put Diaz out. It looks like our own familiar spoils story in a southern and latin setting—that perennial post-election story of ours in which the "appointed" and the "disappointed" are most conspicuous. It is a sentiment, too, of which Big Business in the United States will avail itself. Mexicans had better watch John Hays Hammond, the Guggenheims, the Gallingers, and their underground and overhead connections.

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But there are reasons to hope that Madero may

prove right enough and strong enough to shake off the parasites. If that is his disposition, the circumstances are with him. His government will need greatly increased revenues, and the people much help that will necessitate still greater need for revenues. Where shall these revenues come from? Where shall the increased taxes fall? The common people were exhausted under Diaz, and Madero must go elsewhere for taxes or go to political ruin himself. If he does go elsewhere, tapping the only source of public revenues that Diaz left untapped, he will get his revenues abundantly, and at the same time "swat" the parasites—all of them, native and foreign. Let him tax the estates, giving the workers a rest from taxation, and he will win. By making it easier for the owners of big and unused tracts to let go than to hold on, which is what a heavy tax upon the estates would do, he will drive the parasites out; by taxing the estates on the land value basis, and as users come into them exempting improvements, he will stimulate legitimate business and fill the public treasuries. But does Madero see and understand the power of this policy? and if he does, will he have the nerve to adopt and pursue it?

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Tom L. Johnson's Tax Report.

In his recollections of "Nine Years' War With Privilege," which began in the July number of Hampton's Magazine, Tom L. Johnson tells of his efforts in Congress to destroy the graft of land monopolists in the District of Columbia. He had been "shelved" as a Congressman upon the then obscure committee for the District, but Tom Johnson never staid "shelved." On that committee he left no stone unturned to get his associates to see that the public treasury of the United States, drawn upon to the extent of fifty per cent for District expenses, was not thereby benefiting the people of the District or of the country, but was enriching local landowners; and that these, not satisfied with that lawful graft, were augmenting it with unlawful graft by tax-dodging.

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Mr. Johnson's reminiscences in Hampton's tell how the efforts of his committee to secure fair land value assessments in the District "were met with opposition by those landowners who were paying less than their share of taxes;" but what he rightly regards as the greatest result of the committee's report, was its exposure, for the first time comprehensively and specifically, of "the low assessment of valuable property, the high assess-

ment of small homes, and the utter futility of all attempts to tax personal or intangible property." He has also rightly described that historic report as "the very beginning of a line of inquiry that has gone on in this country since, is the heart of the Budget fight now going on in England, has been applied in parts of Australia, in New Zealand and western Canada, and is today a recognized part of the taxing system in these places."

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As that system is usually and rightly associated with the name of Henry George, whose chief American disciple Tom L. Johnson was, there is singular appropriateness in the fact that Henry George's son, Henry George, Jr., now in Congress and on Johnson's old committee, is reviving the work there which began with the Johnson report.

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Tom L. Johnson's Democratic Successor.

When Mayor Johnson was defeated for re-election in Cleveland two years ago next fall, one candidate upon his ticket was nevertheless elected. This was Newton D. Baker, the City Solicitor, whom Mayor Johnson had appointed to that place in the cabinet of his first term, and who had been thereafter (appointments having been abolished) regularly elected to the same office. Through all his long fight with Privilege in Cleveland, Tom L. Johnson relied upon Mr. Baker as his chief of staff. For not only had Mr. Baker become Johnson's worthily trusted personal friend, and his appreciative and loyal political associate, adviser and coadjutor; but Baker's general training and character, together with his fidelity and experience in the city's law department, made him especially valuable to Johnson in his administration of the affairs of Cleveland for the public good. Whoever had the confidence of Tom L. Johnson knows that through all the years of their association and down to the last hour of his conscious life, he would have chosen Newton D. Baker, had the responsibility of choosing come to him, for his own successor in political and administrative leadership in Cleveland. Mr. Baker's announcement of his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Mayor, must therefore be encouraging to the men of Cleveland who believed in Johnson. And regardless of all questions of Johnson's confidence in Baker, the candidacy of the latter should be an inspiration to the democratic Democrats of Cleveland and a welcome announcement to all non-partisans. The Plain Dealer says none too much in Baker's favor when

it emphasizes his popularity, his qualities of leadership, his years of service as City Solicitor, and the fact that the announcement of his candidacy for Mayor "raises the campaign to a high plane," and warns both parties that unless they pit against him broad and strong men his nomination and election are assured.

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Civic Intelligence and Direct Legislation.

The Initiative, Referendum and Recall will be glad to know that Mr. Wickersham is "agin 'em."

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Who is Mr. Wickersham? Why, don't you know? He is the Attorney General whom President Taft promoted to that exalted post, from a partnership with brother Henry in the service of "good" trusts.

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Mr. Wickersham, with the provincialistic spirit of his place and class, tells this year's graduates of Yale that under the Initiative and Referendum "a small minority of the qualified electors, organized to accomplish any particular purpose, can mould the laws, or even the Constitution, to accomplish their purposes before the great majority of the electors are aware of what is going on."

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Then the great majority of the electors must be lacking in civic intelligence, and therefore properly disfranchised, the more especially as they disfranchise themselves. But Mr. Wickersham forgets that under the same Initiative and Referendum the "great majority," caught napping in that way by a minority, could recover what they had lost before they were aware of what was going on, by resorting to their electoral rights of Initiative at the very next election. If their rights were snatched away by misrepresentatives in the absence of the Initiative and Referendum, they couldn't recover them without trusting other representatives, who also might misrepresent them or be outmaneuvered by corporation lawyers. We say that Mr. Wickersham forgets this. But does he?

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Those Co-ordinate Departments.

Much boasting has been done, first and last, of the balance of powers in our Federal Constitution. With an Executive free of dictation from Congress and Court, with Congress free from Court and Executive, and the Supreme Court free from both the others, it has long been argued that this Republic would sail majestically through the