

New Crystallizations in Politics.

One of the results of the defeat of the Standpatters regarding the pooling and merger clauses of President Taft's railway bill noted above, was a definite and formal organization on the 4th of the Standpat Senators, or "regular" Republicans, for a political war of extermination against the Insurgent Republicans. Senator Aldrich is the leader of this caucus organization, and President Taft is reported to approve the movement. The Standpatters claim 47 Republican Senators for their "regular" organization.

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The Insurgents also have organized a Senatorial caucus. They deny that there are as many as 47 Republicans in the other caucus.

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Regarding these two Senatorial organizations within the Republican party, a staff correspondent of the Chicago Tribune makes this reasonable report upon its significance:

The situation in the Senate has reached the stage of that in the House just prior to the overthrow of Speaker Cannon. Either Insurgency is destined to receive a serious blow, or the leaders of the body are doomed to overthrow. It is a realization of the imminence of the decisive battle that has caused Aldrich and his lieutenants to attempt to make a compact organization which will fight to the last ditch and give no quarter. Defeat will mean an Insurgent triumph of greater significance than that which was achieved in the House.

The President's program is the immediate issue, but back of that the Standpat Republicans are believed to be fighting consciously for political life.

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Women's Suffrage in Congress.

Through Senator Owen of Oklahoma, on the 4th, a memorial asking legislation favoring women's suffrage and replying to President Taft's objection that the franchise might be monopolized by an undesirable class (pp. 361, 366) was presented in the Senate of the United States. The petition, which is signed by the officers of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, asks Congress to submit to the States an amendment to the Constitution securing voting rights to women. It was ordered printed and referred to the committee on woman suffrage. The reasons for asking the franchise for women are thus enumerated in the memorial, as reported in the Washington dispatches: The women of the United States are citizens of the United States, entitled by nature to an equal right to enjoy the opportunities of life; they perform half the work of the United States; they bear all of the children of the United States; they educate these children; they inculcate in these children lessons of morality,

religion, industry, civic righteousness, and civic duty; they deserve to be honored by the children of the country as entitled to equal dignity and honor possessed by men; they pay half of the taxes of the United States; they possess half of the property of the United States, or at least they are entitled to possess half of the property of the United States by virtue of labor performed and duty well done. Of President Taft's objection the memorial asks, "Will you suggest that good women will not vote and bad women will vote?" and this is its answer: "This untrue and unkind suggestion has been answered by history, which demonstrates that the same percentage of women votes as men and that the vote of undesirable women is a negligible quantity. Women are not to be regarded as bringing to suffrage a preponderance of evil. Their vote has brought to the use of the State an important influence in the interest and well being of children, new and stronger laws for the protection and advancement of the interests of children, new and better laws for the preservation of the public health, new and better laws for decency in administration and the beautifying of cities, and more worthy candidates by all parties are offered where women vote."

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Political Co-operation of Trade Unions and Farmers' Unions.

The executive committee of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union (p. 421), in session at St. Louis on the 5th, after a four days' conference with Samuel Gompers and other leaders in the American Federation of Labor, unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

1. As far as the constitution and charter of the Farmers' Union permits, we pledge to our fellow workers in industrial pursuits our best efforts to the end that their rights and liberties, with our own, shall be preserved.

2. Our officers are authorized and directed to confer with the officers of bona fide organized labor organizations to this end.

3. We pledge ourselves to give preference to the products of the industrial workers who manifest their intelligence to protect themselves by organization and urge reciprocal purchase of products of union farmers.

4. Our legislative committees are pledged to cooperate with the similar officers and committees of organized labor to secure such relief and reformatory legislation as may be necessary to conserve the rights and freedom to which the workers as men and citizens are entitled under the Constitution of the United States.

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An Embryonic Single Tax Party.

A call for a convention at New York City, the 21st, for the purpose of organizing a Single Tax political party, has been issued by some of the New York advocates of the single tax upon land