

All the substance constituting wealth must come from resources belonging to the country through the labor and co-operation of its people, and . . . every scheme or device which prevents an equitable distribution of the proceeds of that labor and co-operation, which diverts to one or to some any part of what fairly and honestly belongs to others, is in its essence stealing and robbery.

The mere stealing of government land titles, let it be observed, is no different in essence from buying those titles. The substance of the injury to the people is not the stealing of the titles; it is the preventing of "an equitable distribution of the proceeds" of the "labor and co-operation" of the people, through which "all the substance constituting wealth must come from resources belonging to the country." Whatever be the scheme or device whereby an equitable distribution of those proceeds is prevented, it "is in its essence stealing and robbery." It makes no difference in the long run whether the device be legal or illegal. The essential consideration in such matters as the diversion of natural coal deposits from governmental to private ownership, is not the method or device whereby it is done, but the fact that it is done at all.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

NORTH DAKOTA'S AWAKENING.

Mayville, N. D., Nov. 26.—The wave of reform which has been sweeping over States to the East has just reached us here, and its freshening influence upon the body politic is both delightful and invigorating. For more than a decade the public affairs of this State have been controlled by the railway corporations through their ownership of the machinery of the Republican party; and, although several fights have been made against such domination, their grip seemed to be continually growing stronger. During all of the time since its admission to the Union, North Dakota has been entirely in the hands of the Republican party, except during the years 1892-94, when a Populist-Democratic administration held the reins of government. The Democrats have always been in the minority; and, although the Republican lead was cut down to 5,000 in the Bryan campaign of 1896, in 1904 with Parker as candidate for the Presidency, the State gave Roosevelt a majority of nearly 40,000 and elected the Republican candidate for governor, E. Y. Sarles, over M. F. Hegge, the Democratic nominee, by more than 30,000.

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A growing demand for a primary election law compelled the Republicans to declare in favor of such a measure in their platform of two years ago, but upon their return to power they passed a bill which was far from satisfactory in that it gave the people no direct vote on the nomination of State officers, applying only to county officials and delegates to

State conventions. In the meantime there was coming to be felt within the party a strong influence opposed to the continued domination of the corporations; and upon the passage of a primary election measure, which was regarded as a betrayal of the people's cause, the murmurings grew louder and the signs of dissatisfaction more evident. Then began the formation of "good government leagues" in different parts of the State. Before long, two distinct factions were arrayed against each other, fighting for the control of the Republican organization—the "gang" and the "insurgents."

The former of these two, the "gang," representing the railroad and corporation interests and headed by Alexander McKenzie of "Looting of Alaska" fame, was very loath to relinquish a hold which had proved for over ten years to be both pleasant and profitable, and gave battle to the "insurgents" at the primaries in June last, electing a large majority of the delegates to the convention called for nominating State officers. If the "insurgents" were somewhat unfortunate in the matter of leadership, the quality of the rank and file went a long way toward making up for such defect, the sturdy Scandinavian-American citizens constituting the "backbone" of the movement. The "gang" had complete control of the Republican State convention at Jamestown in July, and insisted upon renominating for governor the man whose home county, Trall, had sent a solid "insurgent" delegation against his candidacy, and placed with him upon the ticket men in every way satisfactory to the corporate interests.

Among the matters of importance coming before the convention was the placing in nomination of a candidate for the vacancy upon the Supreme bench caused by the resignation of Justice N. C. Young. For this position the "insurgents," holding among their good government principles a firm belief in a non-partisan judiciary, voted as a unit for a Democrat, Charles J. Fisk, Judge of the First Judicial District, who has long been regarded by men of all parties as without a peer upon the District bench of the State. The "gang," flushed with their triumph at the primaries and grown arrogant with thoughts of their own strength, refused to conciliate the "insurgents" by conceding to their wishes in the matter of the judgeship, and placed in nomination John Knauf, a man better known as a politician than as a lawyer, who, it is contended, was given a place on the ticket as a reward for party services. At once upon the announcement that Knauf was to be the nominee of the convention, Associate Justice Engerud of the Supreme Court declared that, in the event of Knauf's election, he would resign from the bench, as he regarded him as without qualifications and unfit for such a position. As soon as the convention adjourned, Governor Sarles appointed Mr. Knauf to serve until a successor to Justice Young should be elected.

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When the Democrats assembled in convention at Minot in August, they adopted a splendid declaration of principles, including demands for justice in taxation as between the corporations and the people, a complete primary election law, the initiative and referendum, and the enactment of an anti-pass law,

and nominated one of the best tickets ever offered to the electorate of North Dakota.

In their unanimous nomination of John Burke as candidate for Governor a particularly happy choice was made of a leader of the hosts of democracy. A plain man of the people, of sterling integrity and recognized ability, possessing a nature suggestive of the kindness of a Lincoln combined with the firmness of a Jackson, he proved indeed a tower of strength to the forces working for reform and good government. The strong speaking campaign which he made in nearly every county of the State has never been equaled in the history of North Dakota politics, and the "gang" came to fear the influence of a man whose name was a synonym for honesty and who impressed his hearers everywhere with his absolute sincerity and earnestness.

Acting upon the suggestion of the "insurgent" delegates at the Jamestown convention, and in full accord with their own desire and judgment, the Democrats named Judge Flisk as their candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court. The great majority of the Republican lawyers of the State refused to support Mr. Knauf and lent their influence toward the election of the Democratic nominee, regarding whose pre-eminent fitness and qualifications for the position not the slightest question could be raised.

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The attitude of the reform Republicans, the "insurgents," centered the fight largely upon the offices of governor and judge; and, while the main objection made to the re-election of Sarles was his entire subserviency to the railroad interests, his personal character was to some extent made an issue by the action of the Congregational, Presbyterian and Lutheran church conventions and the W. C. T. U. These different religious bodies adopted resolutions condemnatory of the character and conduct of the governor and urged support of the People's candidate, "Honest John" Burke.

While the enthusiasm did not run high on either side during the campaign, it was very noticeable that for the most part the Democratic speakers were able to secure larger audiences and better attention than their opponents, and there was a quiet undercurrent of feeling which suggested a possible surprise for one side or the other. It came on November 6th, when the Republican majority of 31,000 for Sarles of two years ago, was changed to a majority of 6,000 for Burke. Fisk was elected over Knauf by nearly 10,000. The south and west "stood pat" for the "gang," while the north and east lined up solidly under the banner of reform and good government.

With only one Democratic daily newspaper in the State it would have been difficult to get the issues squarely before a large mass of the people had it not been for the splendid support lent by the independent Republican press, which refused its allegiance to "gang rule" and "bossism" masquerading under the name of the party founded by Lincoln. To the citizens of Scandinavian birth or parentage, who by the thousands took their stand for good government and refused to be misled by appeals to party prejudice, too much credit cannot be given in any summing up of the causes which produced such a splendid result. Upon the Republican side the

fight was made for the most part on national questions, while the Democrats discussed State issues and carried on a real campaign of education. The result is a people's victory rather than a party triumph, and it serves to give notice to the railway and corporation "gang" that North Dakota has awakened from her long slumber and proposes to take her place among her sisters as a free and independent State.

EDWARD PARKER TOTTEN.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Eight days ending Wednesday, Dec. 5, 1906.

Final Session of the 59th Congress.

The 59th Congress (p. 321) met in final session on the 4th.

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The President's Message.

President Roosevelt's message to Congress was read in both Houses on the 5th. It is an unusually lengthy document, in the later free literary style of Presidential messages, and concerns itself chiefly with economic questions. Its principal recommendations relate to campaign contributions from corporations, appeals by the prosecution and other questions of practice in criminal cases, labor injunctions, the lynching of Negroes, conflicts between employers and employed, employers' liability for personal injuries to workmen caused by the negligence of other workmen in the same employment, the conservation of government coal lands, regulation of corporations, inheritance and income taxes, industrial training in schools, agricultural education, irrigation and forest reserves, marriage and divorce, subsidizing American shipping, currency reform, the Philippines, Porto Rico, Hawaii, Alaska, the anti-Japanese agitation in California, the Cuban situation, sealing in Alaska, and the maintenance of international peace by means of large national armament.

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On the subject of campaign contributions the President recommends a law prohibiting all corporations from contributing to the campaign funds of any political party.

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Regarding labor injunctions he recommends laws against judicial abuse of labor injunctions, while retaining them for the restraint of violence or intimidation, especially by conspiracy.

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The question of Negro lynching draws out from the President a recommendation of capital punishment for rape.