

the ground that the thing asked for was not according to any express law, but partly that the necessary act of the City Clerk in passing upon the validity of the names on the petition was "judicial" and not legislative, and was hence illegal! Until this question is tried out by the State Supreme Court, it would seem that any effort to use the initiative or recall can be blocked in the same way.

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Likewise the city attorneys appointed by the late administration and still in office, seem able to block any aggressive move on the part of the city. So far they have declared illegal what the corporations want declared illegal, and that settles it. The Commissioners seem unable to move after that.

If the city attorneys were really the people's advocates, and a just thing seemed to have legal obstacles, they would say we will test the matter and see if these things are legal. If they lost the suit, they would then prepare a bill to present to the legislature to legalize the right instead of the wrong. A whole city government would have much more influence with a legislature than any group of individuals. But the City Solicitors, like the Federal Supreme Court, take the color of the administration that appoints.

LONA INGHAM ROBINSON.

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PROGRESSIVE POLITICS IN CANADA.

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Manitoba and the Canadian west are not behind in the world movement toward democracy. Many men and forces are at work in various ways, with greater and lesser intelligence, solving the problems that cause social inequality. The election in July saw the return of the Tory administration in this Province, but with a decreased majority, and more hope that four years hence it will be dislodged from its present well fortified position.

Fundamental reformers were particularly interested in the candidature of F. J. Dixon (Manitoba League for Taxation of Land Values) who was the nominee (p. 662) of the Labor party for the constituency of Centre Winnipeg. Dixon, who proved an admirable and powerful candidate, is without doubt the best speaker on any side of politics in Manitoba.

It was our first taste of practical politics. We had much to learn; were defeated, but have nothing to regret. Direct legislation, single tax, and an amendment to the injunction laws in the interest of organized labor, were the issues to which Mr. Dixon confined his fight. When the votes were counted he was 73 low in a ballot of 4,000. Had it not been for a shameless padding of the lists, combined with liquor interest alliance and other tricks, the Opposition would undoubtedly have been successful. We estimate that Mr. Dixon would have won easily with a majority of 300 on a fair list of legitimate voters. However, the campaign was a splendid advertiser and served to bring many fundamental reformers to our support, of whose political views we previously had no suspicion.

During the campaign Mr. F. E. Coulter of Port-

land, Oregon, arrived on the scene and rendered service which proved of exceptional value. He addressed several meetings in the city and then went to the country to help other candidates who stood for direct legislation. From all reports, he captured the farmers in a body.

The Liberal party in this Province espoused the cause of direct legislation, though judging from platform utterances, many of their candidates knew little of its merits and were very timid about making it the paramount issue. The labor unions have endorsed direct legislation as have also the farmers' organizations, which are very strong. In this propaganda we can count upon the support of all the Liberal and independent newspapers, and in addition, the agricultural press. In this way we hope to force the hands of the Government. We will suggest to them a plebiscite upon the question at the opportune moment, as the best way to extricate themselves from an impossible position, and we are reasonably assured of success.

After we have won direct legislation, we propose to devote our energies to the taxation of land values. At the present moment we have in this Province a system of land area taxation, the improvements being exempt in all rural municipalities. Our effort will be to change this to conform to our own views. We will then devote our energies to winning the cities of Winnipeg and Brandon to our idea. Then we shall have a whole Province under the single tax, for whatever Winnipeg and Brandon do, the lesser towns are certain to do. The example of Vancouver (p. 675) is having a wonderful effect in producing converts to the system of municipal single tax.

The Liberal party in Manitoba has of late manifested a desire to become more liberal. This has had a splendid effect. The activities of the farmers' organizations are also very much felt. They stand for public ownership, free trade, direct legislation; and a very large proportion of them, particularly among the leaders of their movement, are fundamental single taxers.

Sir Wilfred Laurier, the premier of the Dominion, in the progress of a tour he has been making throughout the West, has been met by those who voice very radical demands. Everywhere deputation after deputation waited on him asking for legislation which, on the whole, is consistent with the best principles of democracy. Among the demands which some Liberal Associations have made upon the Premier are a request for absolute free trade, taxation of land values, and equal suffrage.

ROBERT LLOYD SCOTT.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

THE SECRET OF A GREAT FORTUNE.

Boston, Mass., Aug. 13.

"White umbrellas and elephants mad with pride are the flowers of a grant of land," in the Orient, and vastly richer equivalents in the Occident.

Col. E. A. Stevens, whose ancestral home at Castle Point, N. J., is one of the most conspicuous places within sight of New York harbor, has just been dividing his vast estate among his heirs, and retaining a

truly modest income for himself. Col. Stevens was president of the Hoboken Ferry Company until it went into the hands of a railway. He is president of the Hoboken Land and Improvement Company, which pays one-third of the taxes of Hoboken, a city of about 80,000 inhabitants, and director of the Hackensack Water Company, besides being trustee of Stevens Institute, the engineering school handsomely endowed by his family. Some of the valuable things recently transferred to his heirs by Col. Stevens were 1,230 shares of the Hoboken Land and Improvement Company, 168 shares of the Hoboken Shore Road, 1,999 shares of the Hackensack Water Company, 200 preferred and 140 common shares of the Stevens-Hewitt Engineering Company, 97 shares of the First National Bank of Hoboken, 45 shares of the Hudson Trust Company, 1,000 shares of the American Investment and Security Company, 250 shares of the Ibersville Lumber Company, and about 140 shares of various other corporations, together with claims of one kind or another aggregating more than \$350,000.

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The foundations of the Stevens fortune, of which these possessions of Col. Stevens are only a part, were deepened and widened in 1784 when Col. John Stevens of that day, an eminent, able, well-to-do, and reputable man, purchased at a low price the confiscated estate of a New Jersey Tory.

Forty-five years later a Scotch traveler named James Stuart, found Col. Stevens and his four sons up to their eyes in business, owners, managers and builders of steamboats, possessors of a ferry privilege and a stage line, and still the owners of three miles of beautifully situated shore lands on the Hudson opposite New York. They then paid \$2,300 a year for wharf privileges in New York, and Stuart learned that the ferry fetched in nearly \$100,000 a year.

The men of the Stevens family were not mere idlers; they were hard workers. Several of them were eminent as engineers, in which profession the present Col. Stevens distinguished himself. But all their ability and all their industry would not have sufficed to pile up a tithe of their wealth, had not their ancestors made a lucky land purchase on the edge of the busiest and most expansive human hive on the Western continent.

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It would be hard to estimate how many busy men have contributed to the Stevens fortune by virtue of the fact that it involved the control of natural opportunities ideally situated, and other special privileges.

The fact that the Stevens men were of unusual ability and industry helped them to profit by their special privileges; the fact that they have been men of probity and public usefulness, has not prevented them from growing rich at the expense of nobody knows how many poorer folk.

It is an interesting fact that Col. Stevens, as a Democrat, tried to oust Senator Dryden from office and to enter the Senate himself. He denounced the use of money in the campaign, and spent only \$2,500. Naturally he was defeated.

EDWARD N. VALLANDIGHAM.

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.

Week ending Tuesday, August 16, 1910.

Senator Bourne's Outlook Upon American Politics.

Senator Bourne of Oregon (pp. 697, 698), who is not enrolled among the Insurgents nor accounted a "radical" in any of the opprobrious senses of that much abused word, but is distinctively a democratic Republican, was interviewed on the political situation by the Chicago Tribune of the 14th as he passed through Chicago on his way home, and this highly significant and important declaration is what he is reported to have made:

The man who will be elected in 1912 will be he who most recommends himself to the progressives of both parties. He will be the man who stands out biggest in the public eye as the representative of action and ideals. I don't wish to say at this time, even by implication, that those words unavoidably spell Roosevelt. Roosevelt must demonstrate afresh. He must show unmistakably that he is the man he was before. There was a time, just before the expiration of his Presidency, when Roosevelt, the man—Roosevelt's ideas, Roosevelt's energy and, above all, the solid backing of the mass of the American people behind the man—were the greatest asset this country had. It was with the aim of conserving this asset and using the great impetus that existed that I worked as hard as I could for Roosevelt for a second elective term. But the situation now has changed. President Taft is far from being a failure. I will not say either that he has demonstrated or that he has not demonstrated. But I will say this most emphatically, that he has ample time before him in which to demonstrate. The opportunity exists for him to show the people that he is the man. No half measures and no compromises will serve the ends of a man who wishes to stand for political ideals in the next election. There is time for the President to make himself a man who will bulk equal to any Moses of the Progressives. Col. Roosevelt overshadowed every man of his time when he stepped down. But in the time that has passed since the new administration took hold, the weight that was behind him has scattered. His political future depends on what he does in the next year; for which reason I say that it is the most crucial of his life. There will be plenty of surprises at the fall elections. I don't use the word "Insurgent" as it is employed in classifying the members of the upper and lower houses in Washington. Who are the progressive and who are the foes of progress is plain to all the people. The men who stand for ideals and principles will be the men who will carry