

towns and counties, and the referendum for single items in appropriation bills;

"A constitutional amendment giving cities and towns exclusive power to enact and amend their own charters, subject to the constitution and criminal laws;

"A constitutional amendment permitting the state to control at all times the cost of state printing;

"A constitutional amendment giving one legislative assembly power to propose constitutional amendments, and requiring the people's approval before a constitutional convention can be called; and

"A law prohibiting free passes and discriminations by public service corporations.

"All of these proposals were adopted by the people by large majorities. Thus the last vestige of machine rule in the government is wiped out in Oregon. Each community can do as it likes, and the will of the majority will prevail. In a short time the cities and towns can own and operate the municipal monopolies, and in the meantime all the monopolies except the interstate ones must cease their discriminations. The graft in the state printing can be gotten at by statute law, and the entire system of government is under the voter's control."

It must be plain to every one that the initiative and referendum is growing in popularity. In the language of the democratic national platform: "Absolute acquiescence in the will of the majority, the vital principle of republics (this and other fundamental principles) are doctrines which democracy has established as proverbs of the nation, and they should be constantly invoked, preached, resorted to and enforced."

The initiative and the referendum do not displace representative government; they simply bring the government nearer to the people, and by perfecting representative government they rather strengthen than weaken it. The opponents of the initiative and referendum distrust the masses; they assume that the people as a whole are incapable of passing judgment upon their own affairs; they must select officers to think for them and to act for them.

The democratic idea is that the people think for themselves and select representatives to carry out their thoughts. The democratic idea is that the representative is a necessary evil—necessary because the people are too numerous to act directly upon all questions, but an evil still because the representative is often led by his own interests to sacrifice the interests of the people. It is not always easy to detect corruption in legislators. Very few confess, and conclusive proof is often hard to secure. If the people have a right under reasonable restrictions to pass upon a law, temptation will be removed, because it will be of no advantage to a corporation to bribe a legislator if the people have a right to sit in judgment upon the law afterward. And so a corporation can not bribe a legislature to avoid a subject upon which the people, through the initiative, have demanded action.

WATSON'S JEFFERSONIAN

Hon. Thomas E. Watson of Georgia has launched a monthly publication, to be known as Watson's Jeffersonian Magazine. It is very neatly gotten up and has all the departments which an up-to-date magazine usually contains. His New York venture, "Watson's Magazine," fell into the hands of political enemies and he felt it necessary to start the new one. Mr. Watson is essentially a reformer and is powerful both on the stump and with the pen. His style is entertaining and the Jeffersonian will doubtless have a large circulation. It is published at Atlanta.

PLAIN CITIZEN GUGGENHEIM

Mr. Guggenheim, the prospective republican senator from Colorado, declares that "if he goes to the senate he will not go to represent the smelting company or any other company or any interest." Mr. Guggenheim's attention is respectfully called to the passage in the Bible in which it is declared in plain language that no man can serve two masters. Mr. Guggenheim will prove no exception to the rule. He may not intend to represent the smelter and other corporations, but he is so accustomed to looking at the interests of the people through corporation spectacles that he will be quite sure that that which is good for the corporations will be good for the people. Of course he will expect to have demagogues find fault, and he will count as demagogues all who do not put corporate interests first.

The people of Colorado will soon have a

chance to see the difference between Plain Citizen Guggenheim industriously guarding the interests of predatory wealth and Senator Patterson who conscientiously guarded the interests of the whole people. One of the objections to our present method of electing United States senators is that men like Mr. Guggenheim can secure a seat in that body by putting up some very respectable candidates for the legislature who will be tied by a secret promise to the capitalist who backs them. Plain Citizen Guggenheim will probably feel that the people of Colorado are opposed to the election of senators by direct vote, but his election will do more to convince the public of the necessity for this reform than anything that has happened recently. As a horrible example, Mr. Guggenheim may prove a useful member of the senate; as a representative of the people of Colorado he will be a failure from the beginning.

REFORM IN AUSTRIA

An important governmental reform has just been secured in Austria. Heretofore the parliament has been chosen in such a way as to give the minority absolute control of the legislative body, but public demonstrations have coerced the government into a change by which the deputies will be in the future allotted in proportion to the population, and these will be selected by universal manhood suffrage. As the Austrian parliament is composed of representatives from different races, the members will be assigned to the different races according to population. This will give to each race its proportionate strength and at the same time save the clash between candidates representing different languages and race sentiments. The world moves, and Austria is keeping step.

BARKIS IS WILLING

Secretary Taft announces that he is willing to be the republican standard bearer in 1908, but that he is not seeking the nomination. He goes a step farther and declares that he does not expect to be the republican candidate, and gives his reason. His doubt as to the advisability of his own nomination seems to rest upon the belief that the objections to his availability do not lessen with the continued discharge of his official duties. This announcement coming at this time and just after the inauguration of the Foraker boom suggests that he regards the discharge of the negro troops as an obstacle in the way of his nomination, and he is right in so regarding it. While upon the facts stated the action of the president was justifiable from a moral standpoint—whatever may be the legal aspect of the case—Secretary Taft's position in the matter has made him unpopular with the colored voters, and they have to be reckoned with in a republican convention. Senator Foraker was quick to attack the administration, and through the administration Secretary Taft, on this point, and it is likely that the colored vote will be solidly arrayed against Secretary Taft. If, however, the secretary can so arrange it as to make the vote a tie in the senate and compel the vice president to take a stand upon the question, he may have a companion in his folly, for if the vice president votes to sustain the president, he will also alienate the colored vote, and if he votes against the president, he will alienate the Roosevelt men. There is no doubt that Mr. Fairbanks is also willing to be the republican candidate, and there is also no doubt that he will avoid taking sides in this controversy if he possibly can.

WHAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS

James B. Dill, judge of the court of appeals, New Jersey, who, before going on the bench acquired fame as a legal advisor of men contemplating the organization of great trusts, was the orator at the laying of the cornerstone of the Scottish Rite temple, Jersey City, October 27. Speaking of the conditions today, Mr. Dill made some remarks of more than ordinary interest. He said:

"The smoke upon the financial, social and political horizon indicates fire. 'Frenzied finance' drives us to the conclusion that something must be wrong in the financial situation. Political dishonesty, corruption, and graft, indicate that the political situation is not what it should be; that something is wrong in our governmental machinery. What is wrong? The issue is evaded when we are answered, as we are on all sides, that we are in the midst of an era of prosperity. If by 'prosperity' is meant only that the country is rich in money, that our stomachs are full, our heads and our hands are busy, the question is still unanswered. This is not all there is of

prosperity. We must not eliminate character. The cause of today's existing evils is not that our theories of finance or politics are unsound. They may be wrong, but they are not the wrong. The trouble is that there is a great lack of men who not only will not lie, or steal, or cheat, or bribe, but will make crimes criminal and fraud and graft a disgrace, even though the perpetrators have achieved financial success, even though the wrongdoers live next door, belong to our club, or perhaps to our lodge, or go to our church."

Mr. Dill said that although it might be true that the tendency of today was to make gamblers rather than workers, and that we are living in a saturnalia of graft, an era of grab, nevertheless he did not believe that even a respectable minority of American citizens today did, in their daily lives, strike out the "not" from the Ten Commandments and transpose it into the Beautitudes.

In conclusion Mr. Dill said: "This country stands in dire need of honest, graft-proof working men; such men should be the direct outcome of Masonic doctrine and practices, and the building whose corner-stone we today have laid should be the home of such men."

JAMES BRYCE, AMBASSADOR

Great Britain has paid the United States a compliment in the appointment of James Bryce as ambassador from that country to ours. In the first place Mr. Bryce—not Lord Bryce, or Sir James, but plain Mr. Bryce—is a student of our form of government. He has written a very valuable and widely read treatise on the American commonwealth. Our country would naturally welcome so intelligent a student of American affairs. In the second place his wife is the granddaughter of an American, and it will be pleasant for Americans to meet her. In the third place, both Mr. and Mrs. Bryce represent the intellectual life of Great Britain rather than its ranks and titles, and this fact makes the appointment of Mr. Bryce especially gratifying. We do not recognize hereditary titles or even titles conferred by merit. The old world has been sending us its nobility; that is, a nobility which has nothing in achievement or special fitness to commend it. In sending us a man of brains whose rise is due to his own ability, Great Britain sends us a congenial spirit. Mr. Bryce should be received in this country with such cordiality and open-heartedness as to impress upon the government of Europe the wisdom of recognizing our standards in matters of diplomatic appointment. Welcome, Mr. Bryce, and welcome Mrs. Bryce! May your stay be long and your days in America happy ones.

In the purchase of permanent residences for our ambassadors abroad, our government has taken a step in the direction of raising the quality of our representatives. We have had to rely heretofore upon men of wealth, and those eligible to appointment have been few in number. It will strengthen the bonds between nations if they will send us strong, self-made men like Mr. Bryce, and we in return send the flower of our statesmanship to represent us at the capitals of the old world.

WHO PAYS?

The "Municipal Ownership Publishing Bureau," 353 Fifth avenue, New York City, is sending out in large quantities literature in opposition to municipal ownership. This bureau announces: "We have made arrangements with the American Press association to send free of all charges to those papers that will use it a page, of which proof is enclosed. If you desire to have this sent to you please fill out the enclosed card and send it to us by return mail. Please also indicate how frequently you could make use of a page on this subject."

The question is, who is footing the bill for this enormous expense?

BURKE AND FISK

The election of Governor Burke and Judge Fisk in North Dakota are encouraging symptoms. They were elected by the aid of independent republicans who were not willing to have their party dominated by the corporations. It is just that independence upon which we must rely for the preservation of the government in times of severe trial.

Secretaries of the national treasury are about the only gentlemen who complain of receiving only \$8,000 a year while they are being trained to fill positions paying from \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year.