

like it and they are wondering what they are going to do about it.

Shafroth is one of Colorado's big men. His whole name is John Franklin Shafroth and he is from Missouri. He was born at Fayette, Mo., June 9, 1854. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1875 and in June of this year his alma mater made him a doctor of laws.

He went back to get his degree and while he was gone the state auditor docked him for time lost while not working as governor. Shafroth smiled when he came back and found he was out some salary. "Well, I was on private business and the auditor is right. I did not earn the salary."

In August, 1876, he was admitted to the Missouri bar and practiced there until October, 1879, when he came to Denver, three years too late to be a pioneer, for pioneers came to Colorado in 1876 when the territory became a state. As a lawyer Shafroth prospered and from 1887 to 1891 he was city attorney of Denver. Then he practiced law some more and in 1895 went to congress. He stayed there until February 15, 1904.

The corrupt politicians who elected their candidates by various methods were flourishing in Denver. Robert W. Bonyng, republican candidate for Shafroth's job in congress, produced evidence at the congressional hearing that there had been gross frauds perpetrated at the election wherein Shafroth was elected.

That was enough for Shafroth. As soon as he learned that fraud had placed him in congress he arose in his seat and said, "I resign," and went back to his people. For a few years he was quiet politically. But November, 1908, found him the candidate for governor on the democratic ticket, the choice of all factions. He was honest and he would work for the best of the party.

Shafroth is governor and he adopts the doctrine of the square deal. That is why he had enacted into law the proposition whereby the state pays the expenses of the campaign. It is bad for the machine men, who have held Colorado in the hollow of their hands for years.

His measure was one of those reforms that slip in almost unseen and are really important. If the governor's theory works out there is an end of parties in Colorado owned by the corporations.

Less enthusiastic people than the governor believe this is too much to hope, but they do think that the measure will help. In the meantime there is the first campaign coming on which the new idea will be tried. Politicians over the country await the outcome with interest.—Indianapolis (Ind.) Star.

**"THE MATTER WITH THE PEOPLE"**

To the Editor of the World-Herald: The World-Herald, in company with other honest columns, is "cussing" Aldrich, Payne and other tariff extremists; denouncing dishonesty in platforms and politicians; upholding the hands of The Commoner, and hammering away for progressive reform all along the line. We grant that the hammering is necessary and that the World-Herald has accepted a splendid opportunity for a long fight in its course of reform. There's something the matter with some senators all right. With some state officials, with political practices and platform cupidities. But sometimes when long continued fights for some popular reform have proven unavailing, doesn't it seem that there is something more radically wrong with the people?

Now will the World-Herald kindly compound some analysis as to what's

the matter with the people? Or does the World-Herald, after its years of campaigning, ask itself the same query? Isn't it time that the "big stick" which you have so long wielded over the unscrupulous and vote-grafters, was turned upon the populace that ignores the efforts in its behalf? Isn't it time that "what's the matter with the people" was made a campaign cry across the land? No power but the popular vote can ever check dishonesty in the public service.

That man should barter public trust for private gain is at least understandable, but what about an enlightened nation with democratic institutions submitting to betrayal in platforms, robbery at the hands of wealth, misrepresentation by elected "representatives" and then continuing in office the very party and persons who instigate the treachery? What's the matter with the people? Perhaps the brazen actions of the so-called "betrayers" are more admirable than the passive acceptance by the people.

A congressman may aid vested interests to the sorrow of the people yet his constituency fails to rebuke him. The people may "demand" bank guarantees, popular election of senators and income tax, or a lowered tariff, fail to get the reform and take vengeance upon no one.

Nebraskans have, temporarily at least, lost both the bank guaranty and non-partisan judiciary laws. Are they rising to rebuke the loss? What's the matter with Nebraska? Are her people ignorant? Are they slavish? Certainly not! Then what is the matter with Nebraska's people?

That no person or party can repudiate with safety any principle supported previous to election is a reflection upon the American voter. That any platform placed before the American people should contain "catch phrases," double meanings or subterfuges should utterly discredit the party that wrote it. But will the voters resent the all-satisfying tariff plank of the republican party? There are republicans in congress voting for higher tariffs, lower tariffs and unchanged tariffs, all true to that all-sufficient tariff plank brought from the timber by the Chicago convention. No wonder that "Vic," though he was present at the patching, failed to recognize the plank when it afterward met him. Are the people resenting the pawing of frauds for votes? What's the matter with the people?

The laborer will strike, starve and fight over a wage difference of a few cents, yet allows Aldrich tariffs and indirect taxes to reduce the buying power of his wage fully one-third. The farmer will hold a crop for the last quarter cent and then because of these same injustices, buy one-half as much machinery, clothing, etc., with his money as he might otherwise do.

We boast a manhood suffrage as evidence of popular government, yet how many voters know, when they vote for a man, whether or not his actions will fully accord with their wishes if he is elected? Such a condition seems insufferable, yet prevails everywhere. Are the people content to have their will but a lottery dependent upon the manner of representative they may draw.

How contrary to democratic principles that the course of a man after election should be positively known before. How can a representative government exist under such conditions? Surely a splendid way to perpetuate a government of the people. Will the World-Herald diagnose the disease of passivity affecting the people?

JAMES G. PHELPS.  
Manager Highland Stock Ranch.  
Belmont, Neb., July 28.

**WORDS OF GRATITUDE**

Charles P. Taft at a recent banquet told a story on his big brother, Bill. "One day a woman came to Bill's office," said Brother Charles, "to ask help in the case of her boy. He had been examined for West Point and passed handsomely, but he was a quarter of an inch under the required height. His mother wanted the requirements waived.

"She pleaded with Bill with tears in her eyes, and he was immovable. Then she told him about Johnny; what a good boy he was and how he loved to fight and ought to make a good soldier. Bill perked up. 'We need more of that sort of boys,' he said. 'All right, I'll waive the rule and let him in.'

"The woman had about given up in despair and was quite taken off her feet at his sudden surrender. She jumped up and started effusively to thank him, but she couldn't think of anything good enough to say.

"'Mr. Secretary,' she finally got out, 'you are just too good for anything. I—I—I—why, Mr. Secretary, do you know you aren't just as fat as folks say you are.'"—Cleveland Leader.

**TAX AND EXPENSES**

Senator Borah of Idaho made a plea for an income tax. He advocated an income tax as a means not only of wiping out the treasury deficit, but also as a means of awakening public interest in national expenditures.

Here Senator Borah touched upon a serious defect of the recent fiscal experience of the American people. This nation's government has been operated so long on indirect taxes that about seven Americans out of ten do not clearly realize that it is their money that congress is spending.

Of course, we all know theoretically, and because we read it in the newspapers or in books, that there are customs duties and internal revenue taxes. But the burden of these taxes does not come home to the average Americans.

In fact, the average American is hard to interest in national extravagance, because he is more or less under the delusion that it is not his money but some other fellow's, far away, that they are disbursing down in Washington.

Indirect taxation was defined by the French statesman who first applied it systematically as "the art of getting the most feathers off the goose with the least squawking." Indirect taxes are easy to collect, and the more judiciously they are levied the less attention the people pay in the use made of their money.

An income tax, vigorously collected, and without exemptions down to \$2,000 or \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year, would be the most efficient political educator the American people could possibly have. It would put them on constant inquiry what they were paying for and whether they were getting their money's worth.

Such a tax would be truly arousing and awakening. With it we should hear no more complaints about the people's taking little interest in the national government and its doing.

With an income tax at least half the voters would have something concrete to vote for or vote against. We should have once more a definite political issue that would appeal to the average man and arouse him to positive opinions and to positive action.

Over and above all, we should have an end of countless political delusions and hare-brained projects which exist today merely because they are not supposed to be paid for by anybody "but the government."

Once aroused by the collection of

direct taxes to a realization of the fact that postal savings banks, old age pensions and a thousand other similar fancies would have to be paid for directly out of the taxpayers' pockets and into the taxgatherer's hands, with real money, what a scateration there would be of the paternalistic, socialistic, sociological, biological, bughousing, centralizing and federalizing electorate.—Journal of Agriculture.

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