

tion of a senator by the Indiana state convention. It may not be doubted that the rank and file of Ohio democrats, deeply interested as they are in the making of a real rather than a bogus fight for reform, do not take offense because The Commoner has made the same suggestion to Ohio that it made to Indiana, the same that it makes to Nebraska and to other states having senatorial elections in view.

It is just as natural for The Commoner to advocate measures that will put popular election of senators into practical effect, as it is for the Houston Post to oppose such measures. The democrats of Ohio understand, just as the democrats of Texas do, the motive that prompted The Commoner to give that advice to Ohio democrats—and they understand, also, the motive that prompted the Houston Post to take issue with that advice.

#### A GOOD FIGHT

The insurgent republicans under the leadership of Senators Cummins and Dolliver made a good fight. Although they did not secure everything for which they contended, they pushed the administration forces to the wall and they succeeded in defeating Mr. Hull, one of the most obnoxious of the speaker's lieutenants. Mr. Taft's candidate for governor—Mr. Carroll—was nominated with the small margin of 7,000. Had the full vote been obtained the insurgents would probably have won all along the line, but many men who have heretofore been enthusiastic republicans have lost all hope that the republican party may ever be made of real service to the public interests.

Now that the democrats of Iowa have nominated as a candidate for governor Claude Porter, who is in every way worthy of confidence, it is reasonable to believe that a sufficient number of the rank and file republicans will vote for him in order to insure his election.

Plainly Iowa is a battle ground for the democracy.

#### AT AGREEMENT

In order to win the party must do right, and since we have The Commoner to advise the several state organizations, there is no occasion nor excuse for failure.—Houston Post. Only the old excuse of having mixed the right advice up with the wrong occasion, in which the democratic party has been letter perfect these many years.—New York Tribune.

The New York Tribune and the Houston Post may be depended upon to agree upon questions affecting the democratic party's attitude toward the special interests. While one calls itself a republican paper and the other calls itself a democratic paper, the editors of both of these papers squirm whenever the monopoly hide is punctured and sneeze whenever the monopoly chief takes snuff.

#### A REPUBLICAN MEASURE, TOO

Collier's Weekly, a publication that supported Mr. Taft for the presidency, has this to say of the Taft railroad bill: "A United States senator who is not a democrat and who was not an insurgent preceding the consideration of the railroad bill spoke thus in private conversation: 'The man who drafted that railroad bill in the form in which it was first introduced in the senate is the greatest traitor to the American people since Aaron Burr.' He referred to the cunning intent necessarily back of the subtlety with which the bill was drawn to give the railroads all they want under the appearance of subjecting them to restrictions. It remains to be said that the senator is one of the best five lawyers in the body and has a habit of intellectual accuracy which abhors hyperbole."

#### "AN IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT"

In a long editorial entitled "An Irrepressible Conflict," the Philadelphia North American says that the fight is on between the masses and the classes. The North American says that Ray Stannard Baker in the American Magazine wrote "solemn truths" when he said: "It is common knowledge that the great corporate interests are reaching out to seize water powers, sites, absorb coal mines on government lands, grab the remaining timber, occupy mining lands, get firmer control of public franchises in cities and of great insurance and banking institutions. The whole movement for conservation of our national resources has no significance save as it is an effort to check the aggression of private capital upon public wealth. This is the inner meaning of the Pinchot-Ballinger controversy. Shall the government of our fathers be a government of, by and for the people, just as Lincoln

meant; or a government of, by and for the special interests, just as Aldrich and Cannon mean?"

We have read such things as this in the Philadelphia North American on many occasions—prior to election day—and then we have seen the North American give its great influence to the election of the Aldrich-Cannon ticket.

Is there any reason to believe that this great newspaper will fall to line up in support of the republican ticket in the coming election regardless of the influences that dominate the party.

#### A POOR EXCUSE

Representative James P. Latta, the democratic member from the Third Nebraska district, voted against the postal savings bank bill. When reminded by the Washington correspondent for the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal that postal savings banks were endorsed by the democratic national platform Mr. Latta said: "When the people turn down a platform as they did ours two years ago, it's not so binding as if they had endorsed it. Anyhow, the platform does not bind me on this bank proposition."

When Mr. Latta offered this excuse, he perhaps forgot that both of the national platforms declared for postal savings banks. It is, therefore, a mighty poor excuse for him to say that he voted against the proposition because the people "turned down" the democratic platform.

Mr. Latta would do better to stand upon the statement, "anyhow the platform does not bind me." That is not a first-class excuse, but it is really better than the other one.

#### OREGON PLAN IN NEBRASKA

The democratic state committee for Nebraska in session at Lincoln June 4 adopted a resolution declaring it to be the sense of the committee that democratic candidates for the legislature should file with their nomination papers a declaration agreeing to vote for the candidate for United States senate who at the polls in November receives the largest number of votes. This was well done. Everywhere popular election of senators is a growing reform and democrats particularly should make an effort to put that reform into practical operation pending the adoption of a constitutional amendment providing for it.

Whether the next senator from Nebraska be democrat or republican he ought to be the choice of a majority of the people and the Oregon plan provides, at this time, the best possible method of obtaining that result.

#### "COMPROMISE," INDEED!

The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Republican, defending the Payne-Aldrich law, says: "There is not a taxation law enacted that does not have inequalities in it. At best such legislation is still compromising between ever contending interests. It is easy enough to attack a tariff bill when it is made."

But why did the republican party push the tariff up when they had, by implication at least, promised to put it down? Is it the republican idea of "compromise" between the people and the interests, that the demands of the people for relief are to be answered by the imposition of new burdens?

#### TRUTH

In response to a request for a Memorial day sentiment by the principal of the Green school, Lowell, Massachusetts, Mr. Bryan wrote the following: "You may say for me that the peace sentiment is growing. Truth, whether it be political or moral truth, grows and at last triumphs. The proposition that disputes should be settled by arbitration rather than by force is both a political and a moral truth, and must in time prevail."

#### PRECAUTION

The St. Louis Republic says: "We suggest that the next cabinet be investigated beforehand." A good method of making that practically possible would be to require political parties to publish, prior to election day, the source of their campaign funds.

#### McHARG REWARDED

Collier's Weekly, known in the campaign of 1908 as a stalwart Taft organ, has this to say of the administration it helped to elect: "Is McHarg forgot? Perhaps, by a race which is pre-occupied, and rightly, with business, babies, ball games, and other concerns of virtuous private life; but not by the powers that be. Said McHarg: 'The Roosevelt policies are all rot.' He

was then driven from the department of commerce and labor by what great men call public clamor. That was months ago. Sufficient time has now passed, and he has been appointed tribal attorney by the president. Salary, \$10,000. McHarg would not know a tribe if he saw one, but he has his reward."

#### PRIMARIES FOR 1910

Pennsylvania held its nominating primaries June 4, Iowa June 7, South Dakota June 7. Other primaries will be held as follows: North Dakota, June 29; Vermont, June 30; Texas, July 23; Kansas, August 2; Missouri, August 2; Oklahoma, August 2; California, August 16; Nebraska, August 16; Idaho, August 30; South Carolina, August 30; Wisconsin, September 6; New Hampshire, September 6; Michigan, September 13; Washington, September 13; Illinois, September 15; Washington, September 20; Oregon, September 24; Massachusetts, September 27; New York, sometime in October, but not yet called.

#### THERE ARE OTHERS

On the day before the Iowa primaries the Sioux City Journal, standpat republican, said: "The democratic leaders are watching Iowa with something very like intense interest. The democrats, it may be noted parenthetically, are not supporting the Taft administration."

It would seem now that the people of Iowa are not giving enthusiastic support to the Taft administration.

#### PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

Senator Owen of Oklahoma has written to Collier's Weekly the following interesting letter:

"Permit me to register with you my cordial approval of Mark Sullivan's suggestion of how to have an insurgent congress by questioning candidates. Instead of private individuals questioning candidates on Cannonism, however, it would be more effective to have organized groups of citizens, who wish better party government, in clubs, in leagues, through farmers' unions, through granges, through labor unions, etc., question candidates not only on Cannonism, but on the initiative and referendum, which is the open door to the overthrow of machine politics.

"The precinct boss, under the present convention system, by packed precinct meeting, held on short notice, at inconvenient places, elects the precinct delegate to county conventions. The county convention, composed of boss-chosen delegates, elects machine men to the congressional and state conventions. Thus the congressional convention and state convention has its members composed of delegates (state or congressional) chosen by the delegates (county) delegated by the precinct delegates of a machine boss, who are not chosen by the electors of the precinct.

"Are the precinct delegates (1) selected by the electors? No!

"Are the county delegates (2) selected by the electors? No!

"Are the congressional delegates (3) selected by the electors? No!

"Are the state delegates (3) selected by the electors? No!

"Is a candidate so nominated for congress really nominated by the people? No!

"Is a candidate so nominated for governor really nominated by the people? Certainly not!

"Such a convention of delegated delegates of the third degree from the people is an agency by which selfish interests, either political or commercial, nominate candidates favorable to such interests, and when such candidates are elected by large secret campaign contributions, Cannonism and Aldrichism follow inevitably.

"You can not control the trusts by the government when the government is controlled by the trusts.

"Question candidates in this fashion:

"Sir—If nominated and elected, will you stand for (1) the mandatory direct primary, (2) a thorough-going corrupt practices act, and (3) the initiative and referendum? Please answer directly—yes or no. Your failure to so answer in two weeks will be understood to be a refusal.

"Yours very truly,  
Chairman Legislative Committee of — Club, or League, etc."

"By this policy popular control of the party government can be regained and Cannonism is a lost art."

The American Homestead, a monthly farm journal of national scope, will be sent to all Commoner subscribers, without additional cost, who renew their subscriptions during the month of June. Take advantage of this offer at once, and send in your renewal.