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WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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The Democrats of Arkansas need not be afraid to vote for the Initiative and Referendum amendment otherwise known as "Amendment No. 10." If it has any defects the people can correct them through the provisions of the Amendment itself. The election will be held throughout Arkansas September 12. Every Arkansas voter should go to the polls and help to put his state in the forefront through the adoption of direct legislation.

Forward, March!

The people of Arkansas will adopt or reject the initiative and referendum at the election to be held September 12.

Arkansas voters should not be misled by the plea that there are defects in the measure. Constitutions and statutes written in behalf of the people have often been defective in phraseology, but when it was shown definitely that corrections were necessary they have been made. If the men who oppose "amendment No. 10" really believed that what they call the "joker" is a serious error they would be very glad of the error's existence. But in most cases the men who are laying emphasis upon what they call the "joker" are most interested in the defeat of direct legislation itself. It is not "jokers" nor other alleged defects they fear, it is the power of the direct legislation principle, for that principle, faithfully applied, restores government to the people, and that the interests do not want.

The enemies of direct legislation know that if they can persuade the people of Arkansas to defeat amendment No. 10 the fight for direct legislation in that state will be put back for many years.

Do not be deceived, voters of Arkansas. Stand faithfully by Governor Donaghey and the other brave men who are leading the fight for direct legislation. It is your fight, not theirs. The least you can do in return for the great service they are rendering you is to refuse to be misled by the opponents of direct legislation. The least you can do is to go to the polls and cast your ballots in behalf of the public interests.

A FALSE NOTE

There are a few unfortunate phrases in the Ossawatimie speech, one of the most unfortunate of which deals with the trusts. Mr. Roosevelt adopts the socialistic idea that the trust is an economic development and has come to stay. He says:

"Combinations in industry are the result of an imperative economic law which can not be repealed by political legislation. The effort to prohibit all combinations has substantially failed. The way out lies not in attempting to

prevent such combinations but in completely controlling them in the interest of the public welfare."

This is a dangerous fallacy. He had a seven years' trial with all the executive powers of the government at his command and there were more trusts when he went out than when he went in. One of the worst of the trusts actually coerced him into consenting to the absorption of a rival and then, in return, helped him to nominate his candidate. It is futile to think of CONTROLLING private monopolies. "A private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable"—that is the democratic platform and it presents the only sound remedy. It is useless to talk about driving corporations out of politics as long as they have millions invested in legislation and must control the government in order to secure extortionate dividends.

If Mr. Roosevelt can convince the country that a private monopoly is necessary then the only question will be whether a few people shall continue to corrupt the government and, through this corruption, enjoy the benefits of the monopoly, or whether the government shall own the monopoly and give the benefits of it to the public. But Mr. Roosevelt will not be able to convince the public that the monopoly is necessary. When the public understands the extent to which the favor-seeking corporations now control the government they will join with the democrats and make it impossible for a private monopoly to exist.

GOOD FOR COLORADO

The United Press, under date of Denver, September 1, carried to the democrats of America this good news:

"The people of Colorado at the November election will vote upon a proposed amendment to the state constitution to provide for exactly the same initiative and referendum law as is now in effect in Oregon. This was made possible when the state senate, at its session today, passed a bill providing for the proposed submission of the amendment, by a vote of thirty to two. The house has already passed the bill which now goes to Governor Shafroth for his signature. He will sign it at once. This is the first of the platform pledges of the last democratic state convention that the legislature has redeemed. To pass this bill and several others embodying reforms of a like character, Governor Shafroth called the legislature in special session early in August. Bills embodying the other reforms demanded are now pending."

Governor Shafroth and his associates who worked faithfully to bring about this desirable result are to be congratulated. There is no more important work than the effort to advance the cause of the initiative and referendum. In every section of the country public sentiment is being aroused to the importance of this great reform.

IS IT TREASON?

Never since Lincoln criticised the Dred Scott decision has any prominent public man criticised a decision of the United States supreme court as harshly as Ex-President Roosevelt did the decisions referred to at Denver. Possibly the judges are human, after all, and, like other human beings, liable to be biased and prejudiced.

"Divine Right" Again

Emperor William of Germany has stirred up a good deal of democratic opposition by claiming the throne by divine right. In a recent speech he said:

"My grandfather, Emperor William I., again in his own right placed the Prussian crown upon his head and again proclaimed it to be bestowed upon him by God's grace alone, and not by parliaments, assemblages of the people, or resolutions of the people, and declared that he saw in himself the chosen instrument of heaven and as such regarded his duty as regent and ruler.

"And I, considering myself equally as the instrument of the Master, regardless of passing views and opinions, go my way, which is devoted solely to the prosperity and peaceful development of our fatherland."

One of the German papers, a favorite among army officers, commenting upon the emperor's speech, says:

"This speech means a storm. Never before has Emperor William set into such clear relief his romantic, medieval idea of his non-responsibility to man's judgment, of his not being bound by the constitutional co-operation of the people, and of ruling by God's free grace, against all those convictions and feelings which today determine our existence as a state. Why should the emperor choose this moment to emphasize his ruling by God's grace and his own right, when it will nourish an anti-monarchical agitation and cause good monarchists to be thrown into a condition of tragic disruption?"

It is unfortunate that the emperor should base his claim to the throne on a discarded theory when he has a better one, namely, that the people want him. If his "divine right" is attacked he will have to defend his right with arms and a willing people will have to furnish the arms. Even a king can afford to recognize the people as the source of power. And yet the imperialist who thinks that we have a divine right to rule the Filipinos relies on the same exploded doctrine that the German emperor invokes.

WAIT FOR NEW YORK

Representative Murphy of Missouri is sponsor for Vice President Sherman's presidential boomlet. It would be well, however, to wait until after the republican state convention for New York. If Mr. Sherman can hold on to the office of temporary chairman of that convention in spite of Mr. Roosevelt's efforts to deprive him of it, then his friends may be justified in grooming him for a 1912 contest with the gentleman who now seems destined to become the real leader of republican insurgency.

PRIMARIES FOR PRESIDENTS

Senator Cummins suggests a primary for the nomination of presidential candidates. Why not? If a president is to serve the people why not allow the people to select him. And it might not be a bad idea for United States judges.

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