

cripple the initiative and referendum law by impossible amendments was either knowingly or unknowingly being dictated to by the brewery combine.

"The governor spoke in favor of county option and promised his best efforts along this line. He declared that the people of the state had elected a republican governor and a democratic legislature, thus doing away with the possibility of playing politics. He urged that the legislature get down to serious business, pass a few needed laws and adjourn. He believed it possible to adjourn March 1 with everything done that the state requires.

"The governor urges the restoration of the closed primary; strengthening of the anti-trust law; giving cities the power to make their own charters; ratification of the income tax amendment; favoring the use of voting machines; overhauling of the registration law to prevent certificate frauds; liberal appropriations."

In Indiana Governor Marshall warns the legislators to beware of the lobbyist. He recommended the repeal of the county option law, the enactment of a direct primary law and a referendum act giving the voters the right to approve or reject measures passed by the legislature.

In Illinois, Governor Deneen advocated the anti-pass law, employers liability, corrupt practices act and application of initiative and referendum upon a very important measure rather than upon many measures. He advised the adoption of the recall in the commission form of government on petition of twenty-five per cent of voters instead of seventy-five per cent as at present.

In Minnesota, Governor Eberhart devoted his message largely to purely local matters. He recommended the abolition of capital punishment.

In New York, Governor Dix devoted his message to state finances. He recommended, however, a direct primary law, also the election of senators by popular vote.

In Connecticut, Governor Baldwin advocated giving women the right of suffrage, and the election of senators by popular vote.

POMERENE OF OHIO

The Ohio legislature has elected Atlee Pomerene of Canton, Ohio, to be United States senator. An Associated Press dispatch says:

"Pomerene won the caucus nomination on the first ballot when he received forty-five votes, the exact number required. Next Monday he will be inaugurated lieutenant governor of Ohio. Although his term in the senate begins in March, he will serve as lieutenant governor, in which capacity he presides over the Ohio senate, until the end of the present session, which may extend until after May 1. His successor as lieutenant governor will be appointed by Governor Harmon.

"The ballot was as follows: Pomerene, 45; Stanley, 10; Campbell, 4; Powell, 1; Anderson, 5; Kilbourne, 3; Ansberry, 5; Thomas, 1; Lentz, 3; Donovan, 4; Daugherty, 5; Hughes, 2. Forty-five votes were necessary to a choice.

"Atlee Pomerene is forty-seven years old. He was graduated from Princeton in 1884, with honors and from the Cincinnati law school in 1886. Since that time he has practiced law at Canton. He served Stark county as prosecuting attorney. Pomerene was nominated for lieutenant governor at Dayton last June against his wishes. He had been active in state politics, but has had only one state honor, that of membership in the tax commission appointed by former Governor Harris. He was born at Berlin, Holmes county, the son of a physician, who owned a farm on which his eleven children, including eight sons, were partly reared. The father managed to send all his children to college and of the sons four are physicians, three lawyers and one, deceased, was a preacher. Pomerene is married, but has no children."

Mr. Pomerene is one of Ohio's faithful democrats. He may be depended upon to represent the public interests and to take his stand among the genuine progressive senators.

"THE PEOPLE'S RULE"

The revolution in political affairs of November 8 should not be misinterpreted. The real issue was not whether one set of men should replace another set of men, but whether special interests in alliance with professional self-seeking politicians should rule this country for the benefit of monopoly at the expense of the great masses of the people, or whether we should have "the people's rule." High prices, high tariff,

high freight rates, etc., were but evidences of the fact of the rule of special privilege. This issue in the United States was raised in the last democratic national platform, where it declared:

"The people's rule" to be "the overwhelming issue which manifests itself in all the questions now under discussion."

Everywhere the republicans made this the issue with obvious sincerity, they won out, as in Washington and Wisconsin and in the progressive republican districts. Where the democrats made the doctrine of "the people's rule" and the abuses of "the rule of the few" the issue, they won out, as in Maine, New Jersey, Connecticut, Colorado, and in the numerous districts where the republicans went to defeat.

The initiative and referendum, which is the soul of the people's rule, carried Maine two years ago, and the triumph of the progressive democracy in Maine was a foregone conclusion.

Where the republican leaders have been sufficiently progressive, the people have been content to trust them. Where they were evidently controlled by machine politics in alliance with business, they have suffered a tremendous loss. Where the democratic leaders were in apparent alliance with such selfish interests, it meant defeat, as with Dahlman in Nebraska and the Patterson machine in Tennessee which dragged the too good-natured Bob Taylor to temporary defeat.

That the real issue was the issue between the people's rule and the rule of special privilege is abundantly evidenced by Pennsylvania, where Berry, the people's rule candidate, under the management of the Keystone committee, running on the people's rule program, got 314,745 votes, while Grim, the democratic candidate of the bi-partisan machine, got 116,816 votes, a total of 431,561 votes; while Tener, the regular republican machine candidate, got 348,209 votes. If the democrats of the Keystone state had put up a people's rule candidate and made the campaign on the people's rule system, they would have carried Pennsylvania by over 84,000 votes, in spite of the control of the election machinery by the republican bosses.

No power on earth can stop the movement of the people's rule. It dominates the heart of democracy, it moves the progressive republicans, whose successes have depended on this doctrine alone, and who grow strong just in degree that they show their confidence in it.

The reactionaries of the country under the color of conservatism will now make haste to court the democracy and try to win it away from the people. The progressive democracy should, therefore, and for this very reason, make haste to clean its own house, to pledge itself anew to establishing the rights of the people and the rule of the people. Only by the system of direct legislation and direct nomination can corrupt machine politics, the agency through which special interests have succeeded in ruling this country for their own purposes, be overthrown.

ROBERT L. OWEN.

TEXAS IN LINE

The following dispatch from Austin explains itself: "Governor Campbell today certified to President Taft, Vice President Sherman, Secretary of State Knox and Speaker Cannon the ratification of the proposed income tax amendment by the third called session of the Thirty-first legislature. There was only one dissenting vote in each branch of the legislature. The full text of the amendment which is proposed is as follows: 'The congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes from whatever source derived without apportionment among the several states and without regard to any census of enumeration.'"

THE ROLL OF HONOR

Alabama	Maryland	Oklahoma
South Carolina	Kentucky	Georgia
Illinois	Mississippi	Texas

These states have ratified the income tax. What state will be number ten?

LONESOME SENATOR

Senator Frazier of Tennessee (democrat) refuses to join in whitewashing Senator Lorimer. He must feel lonesome, but to "keep good company or none" sometimes reduces a senator's associates.

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 January when this notice is mentioned.

A DREAM COME TRUE

Edgar Howard in the Columbus, Nebraska, Telegram

Twenty years ago a young man from a western state began suggesting that the best way to protect the money which the people deposited in the banks would be to have the state legislatures enact a law to provide a guaranty fund for state banks, and for congress to enact a law to protect depositors in national banks. At that time banking interests quite generally ridiculed the proposition, and the great majority of newspaper editors endorsed the ridicule of the bankers. The young man did not push the project, but he defended the idea of guaranteed deposits whenever that idea was assailed.

As the years went by the people began to take more and more interest in the question of guaranteed bank deposits, and finally in several states the agitation carried a pledge for guaranteed bank deposits into the state platforms of the political parties, quite generally into the democratic platforms, but in some states the republicans also endorsing the plan. At last one state—Oklahoma—actually enacted a law to guarantee bank depositors against loss. What a howl went up from the great banking interests and their subsidized newspapers! How the great lawyers of the country laughed at the man who was recognized as the foremost champion of the idea of guaranteeing bank deposits! They admitted that the man might be honest, but they said he had no knowledge of law, and declared that the courts would kill every bank guaranty law which any legislature might enact. And the courts did kill some of the guaranty laws. Here in our own state the people instructed the legislature to enact such a law, and the instruction was obeyed. Then a United States judge was imported from Wyoming to pass upon the law, which the big bankers were opposing. The imported judge killed the new law, and then the lawyers laughed again, and again laughed at the great advocate of guaranteed deposits, placing him in the ranks of fools and dreamers.

But now comes the time when the friends of the principle of guaranteed bank deposits can do a little laughing. It is their turn to laugh, because the supreme court of the United States last Tuesday overturned the imported judge from Wyoming, and decided that the bank guaranty laws enacted in Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma are good laws, and that the people can now get the benefit of them.

What is the name of this man who has for years been the foremost advocate of guaranteed bank deposits? What is the name of the man whose principle of the law was laughed at by the great lawyers, but which principle has now been sustained by the highest judicial tribunal on the earth? It is a name very dear to the common people of the world, but particularly to the people of Nebraska, because it is the name of Nebraska's own great commoner—the name of Bryan. The great bankers and the great lawyers called Bryan a dreamer, and so he is, but the splendid dream has at last been proved true by a court from which there is no appeal.

Bryan has won many great victories, but the Telegram regards the decision of the United States supreme court in the bank guaranty cases as the greatest of all his victories. No longer will the great lawyers of the nation dare to question the legal mind of the great commoner. No longer will they be able to patronizingly say: "He is a good man, but still an impracticable dreamer." That supreme court decision has given to our Bryan the unquestioned title to leadership in statecraft as well as in politics. A great authority has said that the duties of a leader of men in the world of thought and politics are to foresee and foretell. Bryan foresaw the necessity of guaranteed bank deposits, in order that the money deposited by the people might be absolutely safe and secure. Bryan foretold that the principle of guaranteed bank deposits would some day become a fixed principle in America, and now from the very pinnacle of all judicial authority comes the decree that Bryan's dream in favor of the protection of depositors in the banks is now an established fact, and that the stone which the great law-builders rejected has now become the headstone in the corner of the temple of common-sense law.

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