

In every other state the people can have a constitution that suits them, why not in Arizona?

The initiative and referendum are not new. They have been adopted in eight states extending from Oregon to Maine and from Montana to Arkansas, they will be submitted to the people in at least eight more by the legislatures now in session. The recall is already in operation in several states and is rapidly spreading.

The only living ex-president is in favor of the initiative, referendum and recall; the Progressive Republican League is in favor of all three reforms. Can President Taft afford to deny statehood to the people of Arizona because of his opposition to three constitutional provisions? Let no friend of his charge him with being so hostile to the fundamental principles of self government.

PROGRESSIVE NATIONALISM

Ex-President Roosevelt is writing a series of articles for the Outlook on "Progressive Nationalism"—the title which he has substituted for new nationalism. The first is an Introduction and in it he classifies the friends and opponents of his program and asks opponents to present an alternative plan if they oppose his.

His second article proposes five reforms:

First, Drastic laws to prevent the corrupt use of money in politics.

Second, Election of United States senators by direct vote.

Third, Direct primaries for the nomination of elective officials.

Fourth, Direct election of delegates to national conventions, the voter to express his choice for president on the ballot for delegate.

Fifth, The introduction of the initiative, referendum, and recall.

The first is a part of the democratic program, and is particularly desired.

The second has been a part of the democratic program for nearly twenty years; it is almost here.

The third is actually in operation in many, if not most, of the states and is not only democratic in principle but is favored by the democrats in almost every state.

The fourth is democratic in principle and should be adopted, although it has not been specifically endorsed in our party platforms.

The fifth is democratic in principle and is becoming more and more a part of the democratic creed in the various states. In Arizona a democratic constitutional convention declared for the initiative, referendum and recall, while a republican constitutional convention in New Mexico rejected them.

We shall await the proposal of other reforms. So far there is nothing to justify the word NATIONALISM in the Outlook articles.

MAGAZINE POSTAGE

It is beginning to dawn upon a great many people that the proposed increase in magazine postage does not relate entirely to a desire to wipe out the postoffice deficit. Many newspaper men and others who are in a position to place proper value upon organized movements believe that the real motive behind this effort may be found in the "system's" purpose to crush every element that proves to be an obstruction in the "system's" pathway. The magazines have done much to awaken the American people to the great danger confronting them. Some of the magazines are, to be sure, under the "system's" control, but the revelations made by others of these periodicals showing the methods whereby the trust system has plundered and abused the American people have educated thoughtless men and women, and have impressed upon the public generally the necessity on the citizen's part for serious thought and effective action. The measure reported by the postoffice committee of the senate providing for the increase in second class postage should be defeated.

"BIRD-MEN"

There may be some "bird-men" among the senators who are still in the air on the question of electing senators by popular vote but they might as well be looking for a landing place—they cannot avoid the question much longer.

TRADING ON LEGISLATION

The practice, common in many state legislatures, of "trading on legislation," cannot be too severely denounced. The vote entrusted to the legislator by the people is too sacred for it to be swapped around in the same way boys swap jack-knives. A measure introduced in the

legislature should stand upon its merits and even a good measure should not be made the beneficiary of a trade. If the legislator who introduces a good bill would not vote for another particular measure, unless some one interested in that measure voted for his favorite bill, then the measure cannot be meritorious in the eyes of the good bill's champion. Why should he, then, vote for such a measure at all? He should not do so and his duty to the good measure does not require him to subdue his conscience with respect to other measures. His vote should be cast upon all propositions according to the merits of each, and once the practice of trading is adopted, public interests are bound to suffer, and one trade involving a bill of somewhat indifferent character will lead to trades involving really bad measures. Every bill in which the public is really interested can afford to stand upon its own merits. It may be defeated temporarily because its advocates refuse to enter into trades, but if the people really want it sooner or later they will have it, and sooner or later they will elect to the legislature men who place too high a value upon their character as legislator to make their votes on public questions a matter of barter and trade.

THE PLATFORM BINDING

The State (Columbia, S. C.) is right—a platform is binding. Every candidate for office—especially for a legislative office—should run on a platform and then should follow it with scrupulous care. The old plan of selecting a man and trusting him to do what he thinks best is past. Governments are growing more and more democratic; they are coming nearer and nearer to the people, and the people demand platforms that bind. The predatory corporations are constantly pushing these men to the front and they want ambiguous platforms. The people believe in plain speaking and in honesty. If a candidate dissents from his platform he should dissent during the campaign, or "forever after hold his peace." A conscience that hibernates during the campaign and then after the election prompts its possessor to betray his people—such a conscience is not to be relied upon.

THE POLICY SUSTAINED

When Justice Holmes, speaking for an unanimous court, said, "When the Oklahoma legislature declares by implication that free banking is a public danger, and that incorporation, inspection and the above described co-operation are necessary safeguards, this court certainly cannot see where it is wrong," he endorsed the policy of the guaranty law. The democrats will rejoice at this unqualified vindication of the wisdom of the plan endorsed in the last national platform of the party. This is more than was expected. Democrats would have been satisfied with a decision sustaining the RIGHT of the state to provide such a system and to require banks to contribute to it but to commend the plan and thus silence the criticism of financiers—this was beyond the hopes of the friends of the law.

RECIPROCITY WITH CANADA

The democrats of the house have acted wisely in endorsing the reciprocity measure submitted by the president. It is not perfect, by any means, but as Senator Culbertson points out, the rates fixed in it are less than the rates in the Aldrich bill and that is an advantage worth securing.

A fight will be made against it by the protectionists and they may be able to prevent ratification at this session, but that may prove a blessing in disguise, for it will not only draw the line more clearly between tariff reformers and protectionists, but it may force an extra session and that is greatly to be desired. The stars, in their courses, are fighting with us now.

WILSON OF NEW JERSEY

For the first time since the great split in 1896 there seems to be a chance that the democratic party may be able to get together on national policies. Mr. Bryan has been falsely charged with a desire to keep the party divided, with an unwillingness to see any candidate succeed where he had failed. But his wish has been to prevent the party from falling a prey to the interests. We can all now see, what some of us once did not see, how real is the danger. In New Jersey there was a determined effort on the part of the interests to capture the party.

In New York the interests are making a desperate fight to send Sheehan to the senate. Many who did not, and who do not agree with Mr. Bryan in some particulars, will wish him all success in his effort to keep the democratic party true to the people.

Mr. Bryan's paper, The Commoner, has an article in which Governor Wilson, though a gold democrat, is spoken of in the most friendly and complimentary terms. "If," says The Commoner, "Governor Wilson had known in 1896 what he knows today he would have fought shoulder to shoulder with the democrats of that year, rather than with the Palmer and Buckner forces that were working as aids to the republican party." But 1896 is a good while away, and it may be that we all, including Mr. Bryan, know more than we did then. No good comes of discussing dead and buried issues. The Commoner, therefore, does well to devote itself to the present aspect of the situation. It says:

"In the name of every lover of popular government The Commoner thanks Governor Wilson for his patriotic efforts. It congratulates New Jersey upon having sent to the United States senate such a man as James E. Martine, and it expresses the hope that from now on the fine effort of which New Jersey's governor is so capable may be given on the side of those democrats who insist that the way to win a democratic victory worth having is to keep the party free from corporation influences and to write its platforms in harmony with the heart beats of the people who believe in 'equal rights to all and special privileges to none.' The first contest will come in the effort of the special interests to control the democratic national convention of 1912. Let us hope that in the great contest Governor Wilson will be found speaking the same language he spoke during the New Jersey senatorial contest and fighting the same battle for the upbuilding of a democratic party that shall be free from the domination of special interests, and of real service in the effort to perpetuate popular government in America."

Governor Wilson is most warmly praised for what he has already done and the victory won by him and Mr. Martine is spoken of as "one of the most notable victories for popular government yet recorded in the political history of any state." It is evident that Mr. Bryan does not propose to judge men any longer solely by the position which they assumed in 1896. It is true also that the men who opposed Mr. Bryan in 1896 have a much kinder feeling toward him. And so we say that it looks as though the old breach were at last to be healed. The question is, not what men thought fifteen years ago, but what they think now. The most determined enemy of Mr. Bryan must admit that during all that time he has been the most potent influence in the political thought of his nation. It is true, as he said in his speech in this city during the late campaign that, though the republican party has been in power, the democratic party has governed. The popular reforms today, such as the direct election of senators, the income tax, control of railroad rates, etc., were all advocated by Mr. Bryan long before any other leader took them up. That is the simple historic truth. Most of the boasted Roosevelt policies are merely the Bryan policies writ small.

There were some things said at the gold democratic convention of which we think that even Mr. Bryan will now approve. Among them is the remarkable prophecy of the late Colonel Breckinridge:

"And then, when the night is far spent, and we take up in the old-fashioned way the little candle in the little candlestick, and start home, as we go up the steps to the home of the sleeper, the chamber where gratitude and affection bring together again the brothers that have been estranged, and when we get into the room and shut the door, we will give our hand to him without a word, except to say to him: 'Brother, the past has been bitter; let it be over; let the morrow be a day when we shall rival each other in our endeavors for a common country, for our beloved party, for the liberty that was our fathers' and that we want to give our children—a liberty based upon order, making regnant the law, with just courts for you and me; and when we talk over this hereafter, it shall not be that one was wrong and one was right, but that both have finally reached through different pathways that common road that leads to the glory, to the prosperity and the happiness of a common people through a triumphant democracy.'"

We are quite sure that no one would rejoice more than Mr. Bryan over the fulfillment of this prophecy. The men who once opposed Mr. Bryan will do what they can to make it sober fact.—Indianapolis News.