

THE JUDGES "DIVINE RIGHT"

General Isaac R. Sherwood, who represents the Ninth Ohio district in congress, asserts that judges have grown into the habit of abusing their powers. The remedy is to make all judges directly amenable to the people, and elected by the people, with limited terms of service and subject to recall by the people.

A judge who does not respect his office does not deserve respect of the people. A judge who does not respect the people is unworthy of the respect of the people, and one unworthy of that respect should not be a judge and should be removed from his position.

The judicial office exists for the benefit of the people, and when a judge uses his office, or misuses it, to the injury of the people he should be recalled.

"The cure for the ills of democracy is more democracy," has been well said. A little democracy applied to our courts might turn out to be pretty good medicine.

We have in mind no particular judge to whom we would apply the recall.

We do not agree with Colonel Roosevelt that the provision for the recall of judges is pernicious in the Arizona constitution but would be good in the California constitution. It should be a law in every state of the union, and a law of the United States.

Judges in California are, as a whole, neither better nor worse than judges in other states.

In conclusion, we appeal to our readers to work night and day for the proposed constitutional amendments, the adoption of which will

mean the emancipation of this glorious state from the bondage of public-service corporations. It will give the people political freedom. With political freedom, they can have industrial freedom whenever they want it—whenever, with clear vision, they understand the full meaning of Father McGlynn's words: "To do God's will we must make room at the Father's table for all His children."

But, as to the "divine right" of judges to be exempt from the recall.

A man is sacred only as he is a man and serves his fellow men; but what is there sacred about a male human being who, placed in a position of honor and trust, refuses to serve his employers? For are not the people the employers of a judge? And has not an employer the right to discharge a faithless employee?

The continued reiteration of the absurd superstition that a judge is sacred, that he is better than a man and something more than a man, is bringing the judiciary into common contempt. That superstition, dinned into the ears of thinking men, is doing more than anything else to create what is often bewailed as "disrespect for the bench." A man, like a law, deserves respect only when he is respectable—worthy of respect. Position has nothing to do with worth.

The idea that a man becomes too sacred to be criticised or recalled because he holds a certain position, is a dangerous and degrading superstition.—San Francisco Star.

BOSTON CITY CLUB STORM CENTRE

The most pronounced advocate of reform, progressiveness—not progress—conservation, conversation, change, muckraking and all the seismic features of latter-day politics ought to be able to satisfy all the hunger and thirst of his soul in the program laid out for the Boston City Club by Secretary Winship, who has just returned from an incursion into the word factories in Washington and the adjacent chautauqua belts. The list of orators, reformers, trouble-makers and spouters booked by Mr. Winship is a long one, and every name in the list will be a joy to the man looking for language and trouble. The pomp and pompadour La Follette will appear at the Boston City Club; W. J. Bryan, presidential candidate emeritus, will be heard; Jonathan Bourne of Oregon and New Bedford will spill words, if not truths; Governor Bass of New Hampshire will explain how he dodged the Roosevelt hoodoo; Senator Smoot of Utah will tell how the tariff affects polygamy and the infant industries of Mormon; Senator Moses E. Clapp will spout; Osborn of Michigan and Cooper of Wisconsin will make the welkin ring even if the Faneuil Hall welkin has to be borrowed for the occasion, and Oswald Garrison Villard, of the New York Evening Post, will speak of reform and unveil a choice lot of evils and dangers.

The Boston City Club bids fair to be a storm centre during the coming year; signals will be hung out every time a statesman from the cyclone belt arrives; and it may be that some or all of our local distributors of hot air will undergo a series of eclipses. It's an ill wind that blows nobody good. I guess those Thursday evening lectures at the Boston City Club will draw out good audiences, for it isn't every day a plain man with a taste for reform has a chance to see and hear such a succession of political curiosities.—Joseph Smith, in Boston Herald.

AN EXAMPLE

"Pa, what's a metrical romance?"
"Well, this month's gas bill is one."—Toledo Blade.

LOGIC

"You want more money? Why, my boy, I worked three years for \$11 a month right in this establishment, and now I'm owner of it."

"Well, you see what happened to your boss. No man who treats his help that way can hang onto his business."—Chicago Record-Herald.

MIGHT AS WELL

"What kind of a career have you mapped out for your boy, Josh?"

"I'm goin' to make a lawyer of him," answered Farmer Corntassel. "He's got an unconquerable fancy for tendin' to other folks' business, an' he might as well git paid for it."—Western Christian Advocate.

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