

more unfortunates, some of whom had not had any work and had spent their last cent for railroad fare and starved, although eager to work. No work in Mandan or anywhere around except on a ditch for \$1.25 a day without board. Their money sufficed to bring them as far as Minneapolis, the rest was sent them from Chicago.

+ + +

## ANOTHER ADVANCE IN OREGON.

Oregon is learning the great truth that in the progress of the race, government by force must give way to government by consent. This truth has hardly risen above the horizon of our times, for government by consent must be evolved from human experience and effort, and can be perfected only through years of discovery and progress.

+

"The scheme of representation, as a substitute for a meeting of the citizens in person, being at most but very imperfectly known to ancient polity, it is in more modern times only that we are to expect instructive examples." So wrote Madison, in 1788, in one of the papers of *The Federalist*. During the century and more that has passed, the years have allowed no stand-still in the evolution looked forward to by Madison. No deficiency, no failure, no obstruction has stopped the development of "government of the people, by the people, for the people." It is still true, as in Madison's day, that "it is in more modern times that we are to expect instructive examples" of representative government.

The methods of democracy are still in their infancy. The very principles of democracy are as yet recognized but dimly—even by the citizens of the greatest free government on earth. The evolution of democracy is yet unfinished, and years hence it will still be said that "it is in more modern times that we are to expect instructive examples" of representative government.

+

For many years Switzerland has furnished the world the bright example of a government in which the officers are not rulers, but are merely the servants of the sovereign people—a representative government in which democracy, by means of improved methods, has wielded greater power than it had ever before possessed.

But to see the brightest example of representative government based on democracy, the world must now look to one of the United States of America. Oregon has in the past few years put into practice so many improvements in the methods of democracy, that she is now in advance of

Switzerland. She has adopted not only the Initiative and the Referendum, but the Recall and Proportional Representation. And the people rule in Oregon more than they do anywhere else on earth.

But more improvements are yet to follow. Oregon will doubtless soon have in use another advanced method of representative government that will make the sovereignty of her people still more powerful and secure. This is a plan proposed, or a method discovered, by Hon. William S. U'Ren, the leader in the great advance of that State.

+

That the people should have control of taxation is a principle that has been recognized but slightly in the past. Hitherto they have had little to do with this matter, even in the freest of governments. The Initiative and Referendum give them a large control. The Recall adds still more to their power; and at first look, seems to make it complete. But these methods merely make officials more amenable to the people. They do not entirely prevent legislators from making vicious tax laws; though they reserve to the people a power to veto, the veto must come promptly through an optional referendum that can only be had after a petition for it has been made by at least a certain percentage of the voters and is filed within a certain time. If the people, for any reason, fail to learn, within that time, that an act of the legislature is bad, it will become a law in spite of their veto power.

U'Ren's plan is to take from legislators all power whatever to make laws relating to taxation. It would leave to them only the power to propose such laws, and reserve to the people alone the power to make them. This is to be done by an amendment of the State constitution which will require that every act relating to taxation shall be submitted to a referendum before it can become law—a master stroke of statesmanship for which U'Ren deserves the lasting gratitude of every friend of human freedom.

+

The taxing power has always been in the hands of the few, and the few have always abused that power. The class that controls taxation also controls the expenditure of the revenues and so holds all the power of government. Even the army and the navy are at its service when it decides to use them. The force of public sentiment has proved but slight protection from a privileged class that wields the power of taxation. Indirect control of taxation does not make secure the liberty of the

people. To keep their sovereignty complete and their freedom safe, the people must reserve to themselves a power over taxation that is direct and absolute.

When U'Ren's proposed amendment has been adopted, the defenses of the people of Oregon against unjust State and municipal taxation will be complete; and every step they take toward a juster system of taxation will put them on new vantage ground from which they can never be routed. And because political freedom and industrial freedom advance hand in hand, there is likely to be such progress and prosperity in Oregon in a few years more as will be the world's wonder. There will be more liberty there than anywhere else on earth. The whole world will learn from Oregon.

ASHER GEO. BEECHER.

---

## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

---

### A WOMAN WHO UNDERSTOOD.

When the news arrived from Cleveland that the Schmidt proposition had been defeated on referendum [p. 776], an unassuming housekeeper was sitting mending small garments, and resting, while their small owners lay like cherubs, storing energy with which to tear more clothes on the morrow.

Now unassuming housekeepers, who are so called because they keep the house standing and useful in spite of vigorous life from one to five years old, are sometimes not much consulted or advised with over investments, or political economy and radical ideals. It is more exact to say that when they may happen to ask questions they are most often answered with brevity, and courteously referred to back numbers of *The Public*, which much mending puts largely out of reach. You see, until a housekeeper of the above type goes to heaven, and leaves the house and babies to be looked after by her bread-winning, voting lord, it is only upon occasions that he fully recognizes that she is a producer.

To such housekeepers income is a matter by no means trivial. They may not be wholly acquainted with its origin; but lord, how well they know its need and the growing uses to which it may be put!

Now the unassuming housekeeper with whom "a mile back" this story started, had once derived income from Municipal Traction shares. This stopped, which impressed her exceedingly. What with the mending and housekeeping, however, much analysis, so as to understand the situation, had not come her way. Before the referendum she had gathered certain things regarding both income and principal, should the Schmidt proposition win. These certain things suited her well. What wonder? Income is very close to much mending and house-preserving, when life from one to five is vigorous and buoyant round about.

The news was divulged to this unassuming house-

keeper, perhaps with brevity, profanity and a tendency towards cowardice.

"Well, how about income," said the unassuming housekeeper. It was then explained that income and principal were less tangible than before, owing to this defeat.

There followed an interval. The unassuming housekeeper finished a patch in a "romper," and started upon a slit in a dainty, tiny petticoat, while elsewhere in the room rage brooded over the sins of that large community in Cleveland.

Then the unassuming housekeeper looked up. "I am very sorry indeed for Mr. Tom L. Johnson. He is so sincere and energetic that this will hurt him badly. What will he do about it?"

It was then explained that Mr. Johnson had declared that he would fight to the last ditch in this street railway business. Also that not the least item of his fight to this ditch would be to obtain principal and income for the investors in Municipal Traction.

Then an interval, and, "Well, I do hope that he won't bother too much about the investors. I should hate to add to the burden of so sincere and energetic a man in so great a struggle. Why, it may kill him!"

And the unassuming housewife plainly exhibited the fact that she understood something of the fight, and what it called upon the men fighting to give to it.

Ever since the 3rd this thought has been variously expressed, or lain dormant, in the minds of many men all over the world. To "the men who work" it is not strange that the group of men called "Our Tom" should appeal, and awaken this feeling.

But to the unassuming housekeepers, "the women who weep"—well, it is not strange, but it is very beautiful.

X. X.

+ + +

### WORKING FOR THE FELS FUND.

Merriwold Park, Sullivan Co., New York.

By this mail I am sending to the Fels fund a check for \$124, money made at a little fair held in our garden here and liberally patronized by the summer colony.

The idea occurred to me a few days before, that with no shops near by at which to spend our pocket money we might in this way make it doubly useful, first by spending it for our own enjoyment and then by turning it over to the Fels fund. All of us worked, and even those that cared nothing for the Fels fund gave cakes and pies and so on.

If we hadn't run out of ice cream our check to the fund would be larger.

I am reporting this little experiment in the hope that it may be taken up in other summer colonies, as a means of swelling the Fels fund. And I don't suppose it need be limited to summer colonies.

ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE.

P. S.—I am opening this letter to say that seven dollars more have come in, making the total contribution of our little fair to the Fels fund \$131. I am delighted and am planning bazaars for future years for the same purpose.