

be a similar union on the other State offices. For the office of Secretary of Internal Affairs, the Democratic candidate, William N. McNair, has been conducting an energetic campaign in behalf of progressive principles. He would be the logical candidate for progressive elements of all parties to unite upon. Such a union would not merely make a victory in Pennsylvania this fall more than probable, it would make the State the leader in a national movement to bring together the progressive elements of all parties and force reactionaries out of both the Progressive and Democratic parties.

S. D.

### A Union for Practical Progress.

A union of progressive elements in New Jersey, for the election of this year, at least, seems forecast in the endorsement by the Democrats of Paterson of the Progressive party legislative nominee, John H. Adamson. As explained in the Progressive party organ, *The Way*, published at Paterson, the adoption of a home rule in taxation law is the most important measure on which local Progressive forces can unite. Such a bill was supported in the last legislature by all genuine democratic members. It was opposed by reactionary Democrats and all but one of the Republicans. In helping the progressive Democrats to push this measure the Progressive party is doing the best possible work in New Jersey for true progressive principles.

S. D.

### A Tedious Process.

Political evolution, like all other forms of evolution, is a slow process. We think to hasten it by making short cuts, only to find in the end that there are no short cuts in nature. Quick changes we can make, but the substance will have its time for growth. Representative government made possible the application of democratic principles to great states. The theory is sound; but there is still difficulty in making the application. The advantage to the winner is so great that no device has yet been discovered to prevent designing politicians from outwitting the people. Instead of the voters selecting their representatives, the politicians still manage to bring about a state of affairs in which the people have to choose them. Party conventions easily become the playthings of the bosses. The voters had no choice except among the candidates put up by the machines. Direct primaries followed; but only to betray another weakness, the long ballot. And while the campaign for the short ballot is still on, there comes

the cry of "too many elections." To conduct two effective campaigns bars out all but the rich and the machine candidates, which leaves us little better off than under the boss-ridden convention.

The immediate needs to meet present evils are a short ballot that shall eliminate all clerical and other minor officials, nominations by petition, and a single election with the preferential vote. Possibly when this has been attained other difficulties will arise. But whether the solution is near at hand, or remote, we cannot stay or go back; we must go on. Pure democracy is an ideal which, though it may never be attained in all its perfection, may yet be approached nearer and nearer as we master its principles. The sporadic ringster who still slips through in spite of electoral restrictions is the more conspicuous because he has fewer companions. Should any one feel disheartened over present conditions it needs only a glance at history to give him the courage to continue the struggle.

S. C.

### Illinois' Duty.

It had been hoped that Illinois would send to Washington a democratic Senator from the Democratic party. The Democrats had the opportunity when John Z. White's name was presented for their consideration. But the party heard its master's voice, and has decided to place its standard for the coming campaign in the hands of one who is anything but a democrat. But while this bars the Democratic party from sending a democrat to Washington in November, it does not prevent the people of Illinois from sending a democratic Senator. For, while the Democrats have named as their candidate the least fit man in the party, the Progressives have named their strongest. Raymond Robins is a democrat from the ground up. He not only is a democrat, but he knows why he is a democrat, and he has the courage of his convictions. He will be a power in the United States Senate, as he has been on the platform. Let every democratic Democrat in Illinois vote for Raymond Robins, and a twofold purpose will have been served: The state will have a fine representative in the Senate, and the country will be spared the humiliation of seeing another plutocrat making laws to govern a democracy.

S. C.

### Raymond Robins for Senator.

It was unfortunate that the opposition to Sullivan's nomination had no inspiring leadership. To