

counties." This is the first instance where it has been provided not only that genuine signatures must first actually be obtained, but that they are then of no avail until proved genuine signatures of voters before a judicial officer—the first time signatures authorized to be procured by law are presumed to be false until found genuine by the courts.

That this provision would absolutely kill every petition passed upon by an unfriendly court can not be denied. The language is plain; the effect is clear. The examination by the court and the passing upon the signatures by the court, and its finding them to be genuine, is one of the prerequisite steps of a valid petition. Further, the amendment could not be aided by judicial construction because it is a fundamental condition on which a law can be initiated or referred. It is clear that the interests which secured the submission of this provision meant to secure by indirection what they did not dare to ask openly. Their aim is to abolish the Initiative and Referendum entirely. Having deceived Missouri farmers into a spirit of bitter opposition to the Singletax, these interests hope to make use of this opposition to fool the farmers once more into voting away all popular control over legislation of any kind.

S. D.



Another Demagogic Design Defeated.

In spite of the demagogic opposition of State Treasurer Ed. Deal of Missouri, the Democratic voters of his home county have renominated State Representative A. R. Boone. Mr. Boone was a good enough democrat to oppose the pending so-called anti-singletax amendment though he does not favor adoption of Singletax. For that reason Mr. Deal denounced him as a "Singletaxer," and called on the voters of Mississippi county to defeat him. But though these voters are overwhelmingly opposed to the Singletax, they evidently have no objection to fair play and dislike demagoguery. So Mr. Boone was renominated by a majority of 268. Missouri's demagogic politicians who imagine that their disgraceful methods of 1912 can be successfully used for an indefinite period would do well to consider this case.

S. D.



The United Societies and Tax Reform.

Commendable is the action of the Executive Committee of the United Societies of Chicago in taking a stand for real tax reform. These societies, representing all organizations of Chicago's citizens of foreign extraction, demand home rule in taxation and insist on assessment at full value of all lands withheld from use by speculators. They are bringing these matters to the attention of candidates for the Legislature and for posi-

tions on assessment boards. This is good civic work, which will, if energetically prosecuted, put the societies in the front rank of the city's useful organizations.

S. D.



The Illinois Primary.

Contests in the Illinois primary elections to be held on September 9 are mainly confined to the Democratic and Republican parties. The Progressive party is fortunate in that Raymond Robins is the only candidate for its senatorial nomination, thus assuring it a head for its ticket of whose democracy there is no question. For a number of important places on the Democratic ticket there are democratic candidates to be found. For Trustee of Illinois University no better selection could be made than Mrs. Estella Burley Griffin. For State Superintendent of Public Instruction two of the six candidates deserve consideration on the part of Democratic voters, and since there is but one to be selected, there is no danger of both being lost in the division. Caroline Grote of the Western Illinois State Normal School is well fitted for the position. She has had many years' experience as a teacher. From the standpoint of political expediency the fact will have weight that as the nominee for the same position in 1906 she received 27,507 more votes than the head of the ticket. Robert C. Moore of Carlinville is the other candidate whose democracy and teaching experience entitle him to consideration. For Congressman-at-large Henry Hogan deserves support. In the Seventh Congressional District, Frank Buchanan should, as a matter of course, be renominated and re-elected; in the Second District the candidacy of Leon Hornstein deserves consideration. For State Representative it is very desirable that Harold V. Amberg be nominated in the Thirty-first District and Michael L. Igoe in the Fifth. In Chicago Daniel L. Cruice, candidate for County Judge, needs no guarantee of his sound democracy and fitness for the position, and the same is true of Thomas G. McElligott, Clerk of the Appellate Court and candidate for re-nomination, and of Nellie Carlin and Michael E. Maher, candidates for judgeships of the Municipal Court. On the Republican ticket Harold C. Kessinger is a candidate in the Fourteenth District for State Representative and his presence in the legislature would be desirable.

S. D.



Wallace Burch.

Ohio's fundamental democrats have lost a splendid co-worker, and genuine democracy an energetic

advocate in the death at Cincinnati on August 30 of Wallace Burch. For many years he performed valuable service in the long struggle which finally ended the control exercised by John R. McLean over the Democratic party of the State. In the work of Herbert S. Bigelow he was an active assistant, doing much to spread the influence of his institution.

S. D.



FREE TRADE WITH MEXICO.

To argue with a man who has renounced his reason is as useless as giving medicine to the dead.

This was a very wise observation made by a very wise man, one Thomas Paine, more than a hundred years ago, and it applies with peculiar force to that quality of mind that is absolutely impervious to the advancing scientific knowledge of the age.

The man who today thinks that the present business depression is due to the recent reduction of some of the extravagantly vicious features of the "Payne-Aldrich" tariff and who talks about the "Free Trade Wilson Bill," lacks information.

This is not a "free trade" country in our foreign relations, and it never has been; because we have not a public opinion sufficiently schooled in the viril art of free-thinking.

Freedom, real freedom, has tremendous reach, its boundaries are much wider than the confines of our own country. Its objects, its effects and its benefits are co-ordinate with the widest economic interests of the human race. It is not provincial.

It is not little. It has none of the characteristics of the Lilliputian. It is as wide reaching as the economic needs of man.



To that vast aggregation of men who think that the depression of 93 was due to the "first free trade Wilson bill" of Cleveland's day, I would gently suggest that it was only one and one-quarter per cent lower in its horizontal schedules than the McKinley bill which it supplanted. Just fancy, what a narrow margin between national prosperity and adversity!

It was such a high tariff that Cleveland refused to sign it, and he charged the Congress that passed it with "perfidy and dishonor," and Wilson, who fathered the original measure, repudiated it.

The facts are that the "original" Wilson bill *did not pass*.

The measure that did pass was the "Gorman, Brice, Hill substitute," and those men were all

plutocrats and protectionists, masquerading as Democrats, as many do today.

The greatest and grandest demonstration of the essential soundness of the doctrine of free trade is the magnificent sweep of its practical application to the economic affairs of this country. Think of it!

A hundred millions of people trading freely without let or hindrance.

What a magnificent vindication of its soundness, virtues and benefits.

History holds no parallel that can compare with it. England and her colonies are the "next of kin" in this splendid demonstration of its external excellence. Even the colonies have preferential tariffs.

Trade is the real cement that holds in unbreakable affiliation this splendid and inspiring galaxy of States.

Trade is the virile thing that gives real vitality to the union of States. It is the great discoverer and conservator of mutual interests.



Free trade with Mexico will give us everything we need in that country, everything we can use to advantage, everything we have any right to. It will give us "everything but monopoly."

Free trade will do more to break down the barriers of distrust and suspicion that today pervade the whole of Mexico than all other agencies combined.

Tariffs are the great incubators of international hostility.

Reprisal, ill feeling, misunderstanding, war and waste are just a few of the precious brood of economic vampires that are hatched from the egg "protection."

Of all the gaudy liveries of heaven, purloined to serve the Mephistophelian purposes of craft, greed and selfishness, that word "protection" is one of the most scintillating examples.

What short shrift would be made of it if the people once glimpsed its true character?

This whole rotten system has woven into its texture paternalism, avarice, scarce opportunity, the sweat shop, low wages, child labor in highly protected industries, and the ten million unchronicled meannesses that are inseparably connected with this unprincipled national policy, which is now, thank a beneficent heaven, tending to rapid disintegration through the operation of more powerful economic laws, which "protectionist statesmen" seem unable to grasp, but are compelled to obey.