

ing failed, recourse was had to a strong executive. This movement reached its maximum under President Roosevelt, who naively essayed to right the wrongs of the world by his own individual fiat. But in spite of his setting aside of laws, his grants of immunity to legal offenders, and his summary breaking of treaties, the people still look to the future for the establishment of Liberty, Prosperity, and Justice.



Many are looking to the Administration of President Wilson for the desired relief. He has shown a scrupulous regard for law. Yet, until Congress grasps the problem understandingly, and gets down to fundamentals, the President can do nothing permanent to relieve the situation. So long as Congress legislates against trusts—while leaving special privilege in private hands—and so long as legislatures and city councils persist in wasting their time with minimum wage laws and maximum price laws—while allowing the natural resources of the earth to be controlled by the few—we shall see our people turning from a government of law to a government of men, and from a government of men to a government of law in a vain attempt to secure the benefits of progress and civilization, which up to the present time have come to only the few. This uncertainty and confusion will continue until man learns to make his laws conform to nature's laws. When natural law finds expression in the statutes, and the courts confine their activities to applying the law, the vacillation noted by Professor Pound will cease; and social, economic and political development will proceed indefinitely.

S. C.



### An Ohio Court on Trial.

Now comes word about a court that holds activity in labor difficulties to be treason. A miner named Joe Kobylak has been held under \$10,000 bond at Bradley, Ohio, on that charge. The specific act of treason of which this man is alleged to be guilty is inciting a mob of strikers to violence against privately owned mining property. Assuming that he is guilty of the act charged, it requires a very difficult stretch of imagination to see wherein it constitutes treason. It is much more easy to realize that the judge who held him on that charge is not fit for his place. It remains to be seen whether in the final disposition of this case further dangerous judicial outrages of this kind are to be encouraged. Every case like this puts a court on trial and some courts have failed to stand the test.

S. D.

### A Tricksters' Conspiracy Against Popular Government.

That the pending so-called anti-singletax amendment in Missouri is in fact an underhanded attempt to make the Initiative and Referendum useless for any purpose, has been ably shown by Senator Owen of Oklahoma in a speech in the Senate. Senator Owen first shows what has been made plain before, that the proposed amendment forbids not only initiation of Singletax amendments but of any measure providing a change of any kind in the tax system. He then makes clear, what had not been so well known, and what was clearly the principal object of those back of the measure—it practically abolishes the Initiative and Referendum. The proposition provides that all petitions must be filed with the county clerks four months before election, that within thirty days thereafter these clerks must lay the petitions before the county courts and if the signatures are found to be genuine the petitions shall, at least three months before election at which they are to be voted on, be certified to the Secretary of the State. Commenting on this impossible provision, Senator Owen said:

Now, watch carefully! All petitions must be in the hands of county clerks four months before the election. That means in 1914, say, on July 3, with the election on November 3. But the clerk may hold these petitions for 30 days before turning them over to the county court. He can hold them till August 1 to 3, all petitions filed from July 1 to 3. Now, August 3 is the date on which all petitions must be in the hands of the secretary of state at Jefferson City—that is, "three months before the election"—after being examined and certified by the county courts. It would be a physical impossibility for the county court to do all this for all petitions filed late in June or early in July, and the history of similar petitions filed in States all over the Union shows that a goodly portion of such petitions are filed shortly before or on the final date set. And even if the people should file their petitions earlier, the power of the county clerk to hold them 30 days would still be a menace and could cause thousands of names to fail to reach the secretary of state in time.

The county court could easily refuse to certify a petition to the secretary of state on the grounds that it had not had time to examine the genuineness of the signatures.

It is perfectly clear then, that any petition opposed by a smaller number only of county clerks or county courts would have no possible chance to get through, and these officials would all act within their constitutional rights and could not be touched.

But more dangerous still is the unprecedented power given the courts to reject at will not only Singletax petitions but all other petitions of the people. The text says petitions shall be certified by the county courts "if the signatures thereto shall be found to be genuine signatures of voters of such

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