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EDITORIAL

Freedom to Teach.

Significant is the action of the Political Science Association in appointing a committee to report on freedom of speech and security of tenure for teachers of political science in American universities. The action implies an admission that there is ground for the charge that professors of political economy are not as free to teach the principles of that science as are other professors to teach facts connected with their specialties. Probably it is for this reason that political economy is represented in many universities as a vague and hazy subject instead of the exact science it is. But the very fact that professors may imperil their livelihood by teaching the truth is itself an illustration of the injustice of prevailing economic conditions.

S. D.



Immigration and Monopoly.

Wrecked sailors on an overcrowded raft in mid-ocean may be justified in refusing to take on an unfortunate struggling for life in the water. But such justification might be questioned should the crowding be due to a grant of half of the raft to one of the number, who would refuse to allow any one to use the empty space. If instead of a raft in mid-ocean we picture a great country abounding with unused natural resources the principle involved is the same. That is the case with the United States. So much of its land is monopolized and withheld from use that many believe it to be overcrowded, and demand that further immigration be stopped. Others who realize the true cause of this apparent overcrowding, nevertheless join in the anti-immigration cry. Realizing that the influence of the land monopolist is strong, the need of relief great, and the influence of the immigrant weak, they attack immigration instead of land monopoly, hoping to get quicker results. Much of the support given to the pending immigration bill is of that nature, although more of it comes from members who would defend land

monopoly under all circumstances. But the bill itself is an indictment of conditions which enable a few to monopolize the country's space. A system is indefensible which makes the coming of willing workers, not otherwise objectionable, a real or apparent menace to workers already here. When it forces the enactment of barbarous anti-immigration laws it has one more wrong to account for. Whether the law be adopted or not, why not get rid of the great evil that made its adoption seem necessary?

S. D.



A Public Product for Private Use.

Under the heading "Alaska Railroad Will Create Seattle Boom," a real estate advertisement appears in the Seattle Times of January 25. The advertisement goes on to argue that the expenditure of \$50,000,000, and unlocking of the "Treasures of Alaska" will result in doubling of land values in the north end of Seattle in a short time. The American people will do the sowing and a few Seattle landlords the reaping. The final result of such booming will be to check progress. Land owners who honestly believe values will double in a short time will feel tempted to insist on double prices now. Those intending to use land will be forced to pay exorbitantly. Investment of capital and employment of labor will thus be discouraged. Finally the boom will collapse, and then when prices of land sink low enough, some inducement to buy for improvement will be offered once more, and the slow recovery will begin.



If such will be the effect of the railroad in far off Seattle, it will surely have similar results in Alaska itself, unless the amendment should be adopted, proposed by Congressman Warren Worth Bailey of Pennsylvania, to take for public use the land values created by the railroad. Friends of the government railway project should insist that this be done.

S. D.



Opening of Conserved Lands.

Said Congressman Albert Johnson of Washington in the House on January 30, as a slur on the conservation policy: "Think of it, more than 90 per cent of all of Arizona, 87 per cent of Nevada, more than 80 per cent of Idaho, 80 per cent of Utah, almost 70 per cent of Wyoming, 65 per cent of Montana, 62 per cent of New Mexico, half of Oregon, half of California, half of Colorado, and 40 per cent of my own State, Washington, all con-

served, together with their resources, for posterity." But what good would it do to open these lands without adequate provision against monopoly? Mr. Johnson should carefully read and consider the facts presented by his colleague, Representative J. W. Bryan, of Washington, in a speech delivered on June 17. Mr. Bryan tells therein about the opening to settlers in 1901 of 750,000 acres in the Olympic national forests. Then Mr. Bryan says further: "Ten years later only about 600 acres of the entire elimination had been cultivated at all, and title to 523,720 acres had passed into the hands of large owners with three companies holding 178,000 acres." What was gained by opening the land under such conditions? Would there not be a similar result if all the land mentioned by Mr. Johnson should be thrown open the same way? These lands had better remain conserved until conditions shall be made so as to ensure opening to labor instead of monopoly. What is needed is a measure like the proposed amendment of Congressman Bailey of Pennsylvania to the Alaska railroad bill. That provides for appropriation, for public use, instead of by private monopolists, of publicly created values. The same principle applied to the conserved public lands will make it possible to open them without danger of monopoly. Is Congressman Johnson ready to approve?

S. D.



Direct Election of Senators.

For the sake of the fundamental principle involved it is to be hoped that the direct vote for Senators will be held under kindlier auspices in other States than it is likely to be in Illinois. With the Republican vote divided, the success of the Democrats is almost a certainty. Hence, the real choice of Senator will occur at the Democratic primaries; and the leading candidate before those primaries is the man who personifies all the evils of the old system, and few of the virtues of the new. But through his leadership as a political boss, he will have in reality more power in this election than he had under the old system. It is an old political trick for bosses to trade votes, and this year offers exceptional opportunities. For it matters little who receives the Republican nomination, and Republican bosses will be willing to throw votes to the Democratic boss's candidate in exchange for votes for other offices. An unflinching recourse of the clever boss at all times, it becomes doubly ominous when the boss himself is a candidate. With Roger C. Sullivan of Illinois an aspirant for a seat in the United States Senate, the democracy of this State is placed on trial. From