

value but for the fact that the people of the United States have established the seat of government in Washington. There is probably no city anywhere in the United States, the land owners of which would not gladly pay all the expenses of transferring the seat of government to their locality. There would be many millions of profits in such a transfer to the land owners of the locality thus favored, and no half and half taxation arrangement would be necessary to enable them to gain it. Although such a transfer is not within the range of probability the holding of some untaxed land by the federal government is no excuse whatever for imposing half the expense of local administration on non-residents. If all local revenue should be raised by a tax on land values only the federal government should pay as any other land owner. But there is no danger of such an arrangement being approved by the interests arrayed against the Crisp bill.



Are the members of the American Civic Association in accord with the action of their president, Horace McFarland of Harrisburg, Pa., and of their secretary, Richard Watrous of Washington, in opposing the bill to end this injustice? If so they should adopt a name for their organization that will more accurately describe its true purpose.

S. D.



Wrong Use of a Right Principle.

If ever any cause has suffered from its unwise friends it is the cause of States-rights. The use made of it to shield chattel slavery is ancient history. Since then it has had defenders who have done what they could to perpetuate the odium it received during the civil war period. The latest effort to cast discredit upon it is being made by the Senators and Representatives who are using it as a pretext for opposition to investigation of conditions in Colorado and northern Michigan. The opposition is ridiculous. Ordering an investigation does not involve any assumption in advance that there is need or justification for federal interference; but merely a determination to learn whether there is any truth in charges made that citizens have been deprived of rights guaranteed under the federal constitution. If the charges are not true, those accused should welcome the investigation. If they are true, then Congress and the American people are entitled to the information. The question of States-rights does not properly belong in the discussion at all.

S. D.

Disregard of Minority Rights.

"Courts can be depended upon to defend the rights of minorities," say opponents of the Recall. Well, a minority consisting of "Mother" Jones is at present imprisoned in Colorado and held incommunicado in violation of her constitutional rights. She has violated no statute, has not been held for trial by any magistrate or indicted by any grand jury. Why don't the courts of Colorado protect her rights?

S. D.



Intimidation of Judges.

The most frequent objection urged against the Recall of the judiciary is that judges would be forced to render decisions to satisfy the passion of the mob. It seems, however, that there are others besides "the mob" possessed of passion to apply against disagreeable judges and they don't need the Recall to apply it. According to press reports, Judge P. H. O'Brien of the Michigan State Circuit Court at Calumet is being socially ostracized as punishment for failing to impose sufficiently severe penalties on striking miners charged with contempt of court. This ostracism is said to extend to members of his family. Whether or not this hurts the judge much no outsider is in a position to decide. But whatever the effect of such treatment in this case may be the fact that it has been applied in one case shows that it can be applied in others, and there certainly are some judges to whom social ostracism would be severe punishment, indeed. It is moreover a weapon which "the mob" can not effectually use, at least not against one in the social position which a judge usually occupies. Perhaps this explains many of the outrageous injunctions issued in labor cases.

S. D.



Vincent Astor and Socialism.

Vincent Astor's declination of Upton Sinclair's invitation to become a Socialist is not impressive. Mr. Astor admits that it is not his own thinking which influences him, but that he is let to reject Socialism by observing that certain labor leaders do so. He might with as good reason have accepted it because other labor leaders do, or because many rich men reject it, or because other rich men are advocates of it. Mr. Astor is making the mistake of permitting others to think for him. Possibly he has more confidence in the ability of other persons to reach correct conclusions than he has in his own. Nevertheless, he is committing the most serious error which any man can