

### Ohio's Senatorial Situation.

Foraker, the discredited reactionary, with whom even William H. Taft felt it unsafe to be publicly associated, will be a candidate for the Republican senatorial nomination in Ohio. His success is said to be probable. To oppose him, on the Democratic ticket, a reactionary and a progressive are contesting. The reactionary is the present Attorney-General of the State, Timothy Hogan. The progressive is former Congressman John J. Lentz. Should Lentz be nominated Foraker will have an opponent, competent and willing to meet him squarely on every issue. Should Hogan be nominated Foraker will have an opponent of the same mind as himself so far as the interests of predatory Privilege is concerned. So in the event of Hogan's nomination Ohio democrats must look outside of the party for the candidate coming nearest to their ideals.

S. D.



### A Significant Election Result in Texas.

The success of James Ferguson in his contest for the Texas Democratic gubernatorial nomination is significant. It is the first time that the land question has been the chief issue between the leading opponents at an American election. Ferguson stood openly for the tenant farmers of Texas and against the landlord interest. His opponent, Ball, stood for the landlord and for monopolistic interests generally. The victory would have been of greater proportions had Ferguson stood for an effective means of dealing with the situation. But unfortunately he did not. His platform merely demands a legal limitation of ground rent charges, to be applied in the same way as legal limitations of the rate of interest. The practicability of such a measure is doubtful and even if practical it will not solve the land question. It will not abolish the landlord's privilege but will, at most, compel him to share it with his tenant. But, for the present, the essential thing is that Texas has declared in favor of curbing the power of landlordism. Inefficient and unsatisfactory as is the measure proposed by Ferguson to accomplish this object, yet with a little perseverance, Texas will improve on it. If Governor-to-be Ferguson will study the tax situation in Houston he will learn of a better method than he has proposed for helping the working farmers.

S. D.



The Arkansas Thomas Cat used to carry the motto, "God help the rich; the poor can beg." But the poor don't beg. It is the rich who beg—for franchises; for public guarantees of their "investments"; for privileges; for "velvet."—Kansas City Times.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

### POLITICS IN OREGON.

Portland, Ore., July 20.

Of the 29 measures referred to the people of Oregon, 18 are initiative measures. The Legislature submitted 11. Five of the 29 are concerning taxation. The Legislature submitted two that would give the power of different rates on different classes of property. They were both defeated in 1912, but those of 1914 are a little worse in language because they use the vague term "reasonable," which would put any tax measure in the hands of the courts.

There is a sur-tax measure on all land assessed over \$25,000 belonging to any one person. The sur-tax begins at one mill in the dollar and reaches 30 mills on all over \$100,000. There is the \$1,500 home tax exemption measure, which exempts the improvements, personal property, tools, machinery, live stock, etc., "used in the maintaining of a home or the gaining of a livelihood."

It is supported by W. S. U'Ren, independent candidate for governor, the Scripps-McRae Daily News, and the daily with the largest circulation in Oregon, the Oregon Journal, published by that outspoken, fundamental Democrat, C. S. Jackson. The Progressive candidate for governor is said to endorse the measure, and is avowedly opposed to Singletax in his platform. The Republican candidate denounces it as "vicious," and the Democratic candidate sits on the fence; so it promises to be one of the leading issues before November.

A few days before the close of the time fixed by law for the filing of an initiative petition (July 2nd) an organization known as the Non-Partizan League bounced out with a tax measure providing that to make any change in the Constitution regarding taxation, other than \$300 exemption of household furniture, two-thirds of the voters at any election must vote thereon, and two-thirds of the vote thereon must be in the affirmative. It was loudly hailed as a measure to "kill Singletax." There is evidently plenty of money behind it and a horde of circulators made life weary to passersby during the last day or two of June. It is in reality a measure to kill the initiative so far as tax laws are concerned, and to nail down the absurd requirement in the present State Constitution that all property shall be assessed equally.

The same general interests put forward another tax measure providing that the governor appoint a commission of three to investigate taxation and report to the Legislature. As Oregon already has an expensive tax commission appointed by the governor for that purpose the object of this measure is peculiar, and apt to excite suspicion.

The existing tax commission proposes tax measures every election that are voted down by the people, and between times aids the railroads and other big land owners to dodge taxes. It also stands in with the water-power grabbers who pay almost no taxes whatever on tens of millions of dollars of special privileges, largely unused.

The socialists for the first time since the Initiative was adopted in 1902 have submitted a measure. It