

do not begin to equal the amount needlessly wasted by the American people in taxes on industry and its products. Congress has appropriated a billion dollars, every dollar of which, except what is derived from the tax on ground-rent incomes, is derived from taxes on labor. And this is by no means all. Taxes levied by states and municipalities enforce similar waste. The American people are first wasteful enough to permit socially earned values to be appropriated by a small number of individuals. Then, to make up for this loss, they allow a wasteful tax system to prevail. The first step toward universal thrift is to put an end to this foolish extravagance. While wasting is going on at the bung-hole little is to be gained by urging saving at the spigot, especially when—as is true in this case—saving at the spigot must only proportionately increase wasting at the bung-hole.



The saying, "willful waste makes woeful want," has no more striking proof than in the want and poverty bred by this wasteful system. Because we allow publicly earned wealth to be privately appropriated, and tax people according to their industry and enterprise, we encourage wasteful withholding of land from use, force extravagant payments to be made for permission to develop our resources, check and discourage production of wealth and wastefully force men into involuntary idleness who might, under proper economic conditions, be engaged in productive and profitable labor. The place where thrift is most conspicuously lacking and where the need of it is most felt is in the conduct of affairs of the social system.

S. D.



Nonpartisanship.

Mr. Roosevelt's plea for nonpartisanship in the New York state campaign would make a stronger appeal to independent voters if they could disabuse their minds of his past actions, and the efforts making toward the union of the two wings of the Republican party. Two years ago, and down to the present time, the big Moose chieftain frowned upon all compromise. If there was to be any getting together, he has repeatedly said, it must be in his wagon. But his party has not grown as some had expected. Nor has the Republican party disappeared, as some had hoped. The two are apparently deadlocked. Mr. Roosevelt was willing to stand for no compromise as long as there was a prospect of success through his own party; but when that appeared to be impossible, he

modified his stand. And just as events shaped themselves in a way that promised possible success with him at the head of a reunited party, he has looked with favor upon mutual endorsements. It is possible that Mr. Roosevelt is entirely disinterested, and that he is honestly desirous of purifying New York state politics; but when it is remembered what a Republican endorsement of him for President two years hence means, it will readily be seen why he is willing to endorse a Republican for governor now. It all goes to show that the Democrats can ill afford to play petty politics. With a reunited Republican party confronting them they will find it no child's play to carry the next election. They certainly cannot succeed with any of the leaders now in sight, aside from Mr. Wilson.

S. C.



Raymond Robbins "Deserving of Democratic Support.

Roger Sullivan's principal, if not only, opponent for the Illinois Democratic Senatorial nomination is Congressman Lawrence B. Stringer. This is disappointing to those members of the party who hoped that against Sullivan, the reactionary, would be pitted an aggressive exponent of progressive democracy. Stringer does not fill the bill. He is better than Sullivan, but that is not sufficient. He is as progressive as the Democratic party, but probably no more so. That is unsatisfactory. Though for many years in political life, there is nothing in his record to indicate that he is anything more than an opportunist. He may be depended upon to support Wilson and his policies just as he might have been depended on to support the policies of Clark, Underwood, Harmon or Hearst had any one of these become President. Still if outside of the Democratic party, there were no hope for democratic principles Stringer would be best entitled to democratic support. But fortunately democracy in Illinois has a candidate outside of the Democratic party. With the possible exception of those who must regard party regularity as of first importance, progressive Democrats will doubtless feel tempted to support Raymond Robbins, the prospective candidate of the Progressive party. Mr. Robbins, being a democrat in principle, can be depended upon to be guided in his official conduct by his principles, regardless of apparent political expediency. His candidacy offers the best opportunity for a solution in the interest of true democracy of the Senatorial situation in Illinois.

S. D.