

The Public

**A National Journal of Fundamental Democracy &
A Weekly Narrative of History in the Making**

LOUIS F. POST, EDITOR
ALICE THACHER POST, MANAGING EDITOR

ADVISORY AND CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

JAMES H. DILLARD, Louisiana
WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, Massachusetts
L. P. C. GARVIN, Rhode Island
HENRY F. RING, Texas
WILLIAM H. FLEMING, Georgia
HERBERT S. BIGELOW, Ohio
FREDERIC C. HOWE, Ohio
MRS. HARRIET TAYLOR UPTON, Ohio
BRAND WHITLOCK, Ohio

HENRY GEORGE, JR., New York
ROBERT BAKER, New York
BOLTON HALL, New York
FRANCIS I. DU PONT, Delaware
HERBERT QUICK, Iowa
MRS. LONA INGHAM ROBINSON, Iowa
S. A. STOCKWELL, Minnesota
WILLIAM P. HILL, Missouri
C. E. S. WOOD, Oregon

JOHN Z. WHITE, Illinois
R. F. PETTIGREW, South Dakota
LEWIS H. BERENS, England
J. W. S. CALLIE, England
JOSEPH FELS, England
JOHN PAUL, Scotland
MAX HIRSCH, Australia
GEORGE FOWLDS, New Zealand

Vol. XI CHICAGO, FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1908. No. 525

Published by LOUIS F. Post
Ellsworth Building, 357 Dearborn Street, Chicago.

Single Copy, Five Cents Yearly Subscription, One Dollar
Entered as Second-Class Matter April 16, 1898, at the Post Office at
Chicago, Illinois, under Act of March 3, 1879.

CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:

Governor Johnson's Friends73
Our National Strength.....73
Raymond Robins and the Campaign Issue.....73
Bryan at Peoria74
Garrison's Free Trade Fight75
The Benefits of Protection75
Intelligent Referendum Voting76
The Demand of Women for Woman Suffrage.....76
Queer Americanism77
"Business is Booming"77
Hard Times77
The Cause of Unemployment78
Legislative Mechanism78
Roy O. West and the McCormicks.....78
Mr. Foulke and Free Speech.....78
A Dangerous Question78
Direct Legislation in Oregon (Robert Tyson).....79

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE:

Raymond Robins in Boston (Margaret E. Chase).....82

NEWS NARRATIVE:

Organized Labor in Politics82
Presidential Politics84
The Cleveland Traction Question.....84
News Notes84
Press Opinions85

RELATED THINGS:

The Valley of Decision (Jos. Fitzpatrick).....85
The Gospel of Service (W. J. Bryan).....85
Wealth Buys Life86
The Democratic Demands of Caesar's Day.....86
Farmers and the Natural Tax (R. B. Brinsmade).....86
The Supreme Court Opens Another Back Door.....88
The Day of Opportunity (W. L. Garrison).....88
Mutterings of a Millionaire (F. Finsterbach).....90

BOOKS:

Mental Healing91
The Discovery of the Soul91
Latter-Day Piracy92
Progress and Discontent92
Books Received92

EDITORIAL

Governor Johnson's Friends.

The plutocratic press are quite enthusiastic for the nomination of Governor Johnson instead of Bryan. Naturally. They hate Bryan for the enemies he has made, and they love Johnson for the friends that surround him.

+ +

Our National Strength.

Those were inspiring words and true, which Congressman Burton uttered in the House last week in opposing the expenditure of more money for battleships. "Let us continue our traditional policy," he said, "not of non-resistance, but of confidence in our strength as a nation; our military strength, our material strength, but most of all in the great moral and political ideals that have made our country great—our ideals of justice and the equality of man. Those great ideals are stronger than battleships. Along this line lies our destiny and our glory." Nothing better was ever said on the floor of Congress. Would that every member of the House were a Burton when battleships are asked for.

+ +

Raymond Robins and the Campaign Issue.

In his dramatic and convincing speech before the Federation of Labor at Chicago on the 19th, Raymond Robins sounded what is not unlikely to be the keynote of the approaching Presidential and Congressional campaign. The analogy he

drew between the Dred Scott slave decision of fifty years ago and the Danbury labor decision of the present year, was impressively exact; and his quotations from Lincoln's criticisms of that decision were almost as if they had been framed especially for criticising this one.

+

If it was necessary to convince that audience, representing hundreds of thousands of Chicago workingmen, that the Danbury decision is the forerunner of Supreme Court decisions which will condemn all effective labor unionism as conspiracies under the Sherman anti-trust law, just as Lincoln saw in the Dred Scott decision the forerunner of Supreme Court decisions making slavery a national institution, Mr. Robins did it. If it was necessary to convince them that nothing will stop this tendency to strangle labor unionism, short of an emphatic labor demonstration at the polls next Fall, Mr. Robins did that also. His speech, both in form and substance, was one of the kind that become historical landmarks of political revolution. And his audience rose to the supreme importance of the situation.

+

It will not take many such speeches before labor audiences—or indeed before audiences of any other class of fair-minded men—to change the face of the political situation. Let it once be generally felt, as Mr. Robins argued, and as the fact seems to be, that the Supreme Court of to-day is to our plutocracy what the Supreme Court of fifty years ago was to the slavocracy, and startling events would occur. A vote of decisive magnitude from all parties would come over to those Presidential and Congressional candidates, and only to those who, being within the possibilities of election, are of such character personally and stand upon such platforms politically, as to leave no room for distrust. It begins to look as if organized workingmen had been forced into a realization of their danger from plutocracy; nor of their own danger alone, but of the danger to all whose prosperity depends upon a fair distribution of the products of labor.

+ +

Bryan at Peoria.

On the occasion of his speech at Peoria last week (p. 60), William J. Bryan was placed in an embarrassing position by Frank J. Quinn, Roger C. Sullivan's lieutenant, who, as chairman of the Springfield convention four years ago (vol. vii, pp. 161, 170), gaveled through the Sullivan-Hopkins program. But Mr. Bryan's spontane-

ous sincerity saves him many an embarrassment which a less ingenuous public man would suffer from. The embarrassment prepared for him on this occasion consisted in the selection of the Sullivanic Mr. Quinn himself to preside at the Bryan meeting. Mr. Bryan met the embarrassment. Upon his arrival at Peoria, as told by the best paper of Peoria and one of the best in the State, the Peoria Star, of the 15th, he—

took a carriage to the Creve Coeur club. On the steps stood Mr. Quinn and Judge Worthington. No time was lost in preliminaries. Dismounting from the carriage Mr. Bryan greeted Judge Worthington and then turned to Quinn. The latter said something about an "embarrassing position." Bryan was quick to interrupt. In cold, even tones he acknowledged that the position was embarrassing. "There are some things that cannot be forgotten," he said. "If Mr. Quinn presides at the meeting to-night I shall be compelled to give voice to sentiments that will prove embarrassing to him and to me. I shall be compelled to speak of the events that transpired at the Springfield convention four years ago. There can be no doubt as to the position I will take." There was an awkward silence for a moment. The line had been drawn. Mr. Bryan had given the chairman the opportunity to withdraw or to engage in a controversy on the platform wherein he could hope for nothing but defeat and humiliation. It had been stated that Quinn had declared he would not withdraw; that in view of the fight made on him by Robert Cumming and others of the radical wing of the Democracy he had determined to stand by his guns. If Quinn did make this statement he suffered a change of heart in a very short time. With the two alternatives facing him, Quinn chose to accept the one where the least danger was involved. He offered to withdraw in favor of Judge Worthington. "That is satisfactory to me," declared Mr. Bryan. He had won his fight, and, more than that, he had preserved his record for consistency, refusing to accept at the hands of those who had betrayed him in the past anything that might have been construed into a truce that would have wronged the men who had been faithful to him. So it was in no peaceable mood that the Great Commoner entered the Coliseum last night and faced an audience of 5,000 persons. He had gained his point, but he was not sure that the pledge would be kept. Stephen Wolschlag opened the meeting and introduced Mr. Quinn as the man "selected by the Mandan club to act as chairman." Bryan's lips tightened and his eyes narrowed to two slits. He leaned forward in his chair, the attitude of a prize fighter awaiting the gong. Quinn rose and launched into a speech of praise for the orator of the evening. "The gentleman who is our guest has been my ideal as a statesman and a citizen since the first time I laid my eyes on him." The Nebraskan wore the same grim smile. "My selection as chairman of this meeting was a mistake," continued the speaker. Bryan's smile was inscrutable. "My friend, Judge Worthington, should have been selected, and I now take pleasure in formally turning over the position I now occupy." Then tension relaxed. Judge Worthington's introductory speech was of a happy nature.