

Finding a toll road hampering the growth and freedom of the city, he discovered a way to abolish it despite the decision in its favor of the Supreme Court of the State.

There was need for a kindergarten school, but there was no room. He made room by converting the chamber of the City Council, which only meets twice a month, into a kindergarten where little boys and girls are in charge of expert kindergarten teachers.

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Like all other disciples of George, Mayor Kern believes in the emancipation of the city from legislative restraints. A Democrat in politics and a democrat in principle, he is however not wedded to the doctrine of States' rights. He believes that as time goes on, it will be necessary to confer greater and greater powers upon the national government; and that if this can be done throughout the nation concurrently with the emancipation of the city, we shall be all the better for it. No tears need be shed, he thinks, over the diminishing power and final extinction of the State, provided the principle of home rule is extended to the municipality.

GEORGE A. SCHILLING.

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FISCAL HOME RULE IN NEW JERSEY.

Passaic, N. J., March 1.—The Blauvelt bill for home rule in taxation (pp. 153, 218) has been put to sleep in the House of Assembly at Trenton, as the advocates of the measure knew it would be. Last week the House committee on judiciary unanimously reported the bill adversely. Mr. Blauvelt made a strenuous effort to have the bill advanced to second reading, despite the committee's action, but was defeated by a vote of 42 to 12. The friends of reform in taxation in New Jersey feel, however, that they have won a partial victory in bringing the issue thus squarely to the attention of the people of the State. Already there has been much newspaper criticism favorable to the bill, and it will certainly be introduced again next year. Students of taxation here are most hopeful of making home rule in taxation a leading issue in politics before the next legislature convenes.

CORNELIUS W. KIEVIT.

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SECOND BALLOT IN NEW ZEALAND.

Dunedin, New Zealand, January 5.—New Zealand has had its first practical trial of the second ballot, which was grafted on to our system by the recently-expired Parliament during its last session. In that Parliament there were 15 members in a House of 80 who had not received an absolute majority of the votes recorded in their constituencies. To ensure majority representation the second ballot law was enacted. It was passed by substantial majorities, but it is known that some members of the Cabinet were opposed to it and many members of Parliament voted for it simply on party lines.

This law was passed primarily to secure majority representation. We had 23 second ballot contests at the November elections and there were

over 5,000 fewer voters than at the first ballot. A cabinet minister was returned at the second ballot with a lesser total than he polled on the first ballot, despite the fact that one candidate was weeded out by the first poll.

Our plan compels all but the first and second candidates to retire from the second ballot. This resulted in one case in the dominant political party being excluded from the second ballot. An Opposition candidate headed the poll with 2,412 votes, an Independent Labor man was second with 1,746, and two Government candidates scored 2,381. They were excluded from the second ballot, which was won by the Labor candidate with 3,446 votes against the Opposition man's total of 3,019.

Some remarkable changes of political color occurred at the second ballot polls. In one electorate at the first ballot a Government candidate polled 1,552 votes, an Opposition candidate secured 1,453, whilst a second Government candidate polled 1,301. Seven days later the Opposition man polled 2,478 and the Government candidate 1,781. In another constituency two Government candidates polled 3,816 votes against an Opposition man's total of 3,066. Seven days later the Government majority of 750 had developed into a minority of six votes. It will be seen here that there were 124 fewer voters at the second ballot than at the first and they were the deciding factor. In a third case two Government candidates polled 3,701 votes against an Opposition candidate's total of 2,824. At the second ballot a week later the Government's majority of 867 had disappeared and it was in a minority of 800.

J. T. PAUL.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

AN OBJECTION TO THE SECOND BALLOT.

Dunedin, New Zealand, January 5.—To the student of the second ballot, every thing happened at the recent New Zealand election pretty much as expected. Fewer voters exercised the franchise on the second ballot; arrangements were attempted if not carried out and some of them resembled what M. Yves Guyot called "detestable bargainings"; the second ballot only ensures that a candidate shall be returned by a majority of those who vote; it impinges the principle of secrecy of the ballot by placing the voter at the second ballot in a favored position; it conduces towards lightning changes of political principles without sufficient justification; and, of course, majority representation could be more easily and more safely accomplished by a system of preferential voting. Majority representation, however, is unscientific and undemocratic. The most influential daily paper supporting the Government wrote on the morning after the elections that "the second ballot had its first trial in New Zealand yesterday, and probably its last." Many other leading dailies oppose it. Our experiment has been wholly unsatisfactory. Some members lost their seats because of their support of the bill. Whether it will be repealed or not it is impossible to say. Many firm friends of the Government urge that a system

of proportional representation should be inaugurated and the second ballot quietly dropped.

J. T. PAUL.

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A QUESTION ABOUT CORPORATIONS.

In considering the matter of corporate influence upon legislation and the evils connected with speculation in corporate stocks, the question comes to the front "Why should we have corporations with their complex issues of different kinds of stocks and their bonds and short time notes, and their special privileges as to the laws for the collection of debts?"

Is there anything in the constitution of society that demands more protection for the man who invests a sum of money in corporate stocks, than is granted to the man who invests a like sum of money in an individual or partnership enterprise?

The man who invests in individual or partnership enterprise becomes responsible for the debts of the enterprise to the extent of nearly his entire property, while the corporate investor becomes liable only to the extent of his investment, or at the extreme to the extent of double the amount of his investment. Why should there be such discrimination?

The argument that is made for such discrimination does not seem to be well founded. If the enterprise is of such magnitude that it demands a great concentration of capital, and the risk in the enterprise is so great that ordinary combinations of men cannot accomplish it, then common sense would say that if it is an enterprise of a public or quasi-public character, the public should take hold of the enterprise through their organized public agencies, and should take the risk and receive the benefits. If it is not of a public nature and the risks are not great the organizers should be held to the same liability and subject to the same laws as the individual or the partnership enterprise.

The conclusion reached is that private corporations have no legitimate place in society, and that everything that is necessary to be done for the welfare of the people that seems to demand the creation of a corporation, should be done by municipal corporations under the control of the people.

GEO. V. WELLS.

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"What are your advertising rates?" asked the manager of the Desdemonean Kerosene-Circuiters of the editor of the Cobville Clarion.

"Well," answered the genius, "for four free tickets we will describe you as a good troupe; for six tickets, we will call you the foremost exponents of the Shakespearean drama now on the jump; for eight tickets, we will state that it is a shame that such fellows as Mantell and Novelli should be posing as classic artists, when Hamdodo J. Ranter is playing within a thousand miles; and for ten free tickets—all reserved, mind you—we will declare that, when witnessing your marvelous performance, we really thought that we were sky-larking in a Thespian beer-garden once more, with Poe's Raven and the harpies singing sweetly in the peanut-groves and Cupid and La Belle Fatima festooning our august, bald brow with fig leaves and linked pretzels."—Puck.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, March 9, 1909.

Inauguration of President Taft.

William H. Taft was inaugurated President of the United States (p. 208) on the 4th, at noon. The usual ceremonies at the east front of the capitol, for which elaborate preparations had been made, were dispensed with because a violent blizzard had set in which made out-door ceremonials impossible. For this reason Mr. Taft took the oath of office and delivered his inaugural address in the Senate chamber.

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The inaugural address expressly outlined the main policies of the new Administration so far as they could be anticipated, promising especially to "make the maintenance and enforcement" of President Roosevelt's reforms a "most important feature" of the new Administration.

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Among other things specifically promised were—

"Relief of the railroads from certain restrictions of the anti-trust law;" Federal restriction of "excessive issues of bonds and stocks" by inter-State railroads; reorganization of the Department of Justice, the Department of Commerce and Labor, and the Interstate Commerce Commission so as "to secure a more rapid and certain enforcement of the laws affecting inter-State railroads and industrial combinations;" revision of the tariff so as to "secure an adequate revenue and adjust the duties in such a manner as to afford to labor and to all industries in this country, whether of the farm, mine or factory, protection by tariff equal to the difference between the cost of production abroad and the cost of production here," and for reciprocal adjustments with other nations "upon Executive determination of certain facts."

In connection with the proposed tariff revision the President observed that the business depression will have reduced the national revenues to a point \$100,000,000 below expenditures for the fiscal year ending next June; and he advised that if an adequate income cannot be derived from import duties, "new kinds of taxation must be adopted," preferably "a graduated inheritance tax."