

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

By A. G. McBRIDE

About twenty-one years ago, I made my first visit to Olympia, and for the purpose of attending to some matters in the Supreme Court. The judges were not overworked then as they now are. In the afternoon, I went duck hunting with the clerk, Mr. Rinehart. Either as a clerk or duck hunter, he was a high grade proposition. He has been clerk of the Supreme Court ever since. Judges may come and judges may go, but C. S. Rinehart "goes on forever." There is a good reason for this. A better, more competent, pleasant and obliging clerk cannot be found in this great, large Union. I like to say this of Mr. Rinehart, because it is true. There is still another thing that can be said of him. He has the genius of discovering genius in others. Selecting his assistants, is where so many officials fall down, but not so with Mr. Rinehart. I don't know where his discovery of F. S. Guyot, was made, but the state cannot furnish a better assistant. The same high standard has been maintained in the selection of a stenographer, May D. Parkhurst. In fact, nothing too good can be said of these two assistants and for twenty years, the office of clerk of the Supreme Court of Washington is all, and more than any one could expect, in a boss controlled state.

When Clarence Dayton Hillman was convicted before Judge Donworth on the charge of fraudulent use of the mails, he received as fair and impartial a trial and treatment as any conscientious court could extend to any one charged with a crime, and after a sentence of two and a half years had been imposed upon him the defendant boasted, "the fight has just begun." His case was taken to the court of appeals and from there to the Supreme Court of the United States, and the judgment of the lower court was affirmed. Hillman's great fight reminds one of Don Quixote's battle with the wind mills, but right has finally prevailed and his case has also demonstrated, money don't always free a criminal. The punishment meted out to him is richly deserved. He is a rich man, partially made so by unfair and dishonest dealing with his patrons. Had he been honest in his dealings, he would be a richer man than he is. Some men would rather make five dollars dishonestly than ten dollars honestly, and Hillman seems to be in deep sympathy with the former class. He is comparatively a young man. He will serve the time allotted and return a wiser and better man. He is a good, keen rustler and no doubt will live down the disgrace and become a truly upright and desirable citizen.

The progressive element of the United States is misunderstood. It is a movement in favor of certain principles, and not to further the ambitions of any one particular man. Progressives of course, have their preference, but it matters but little whether it be Roosevelt, La Follette or Cummings. La Follette and Roosevelt were probably the first men to advocate the progressive movement, which simply means better, purer and

cleaner administration of public affairs; that the people and not the political leaders shall rule.

Progressive principles are not modern. They are as old as history itself. France had her progressive leaders whose work culminated in the French revolution. Greece, divided as it was into small republics and other forms of government, furnished many examples of progressiveness, and Pericles, a man more like our beloved Lincoln, than any statesman that ever lived, endeavored, though in part unappreciated, to instill into the minds of the people of Athens and Attica these same principles. The reforms of Cromwell in England and the wresting from King John, the great Magna Charta in 1215, are examples of the demand of a people asking that progressive principles be applied in governmental affairs. In the United States, a progressive movement was started in the National convention of the Liberal Republicans at Cincinnati, on May 1st, 1872, and Horace Greely was nominated for president. This movement was handicapped by difference of opinions on the tariff question and the endorsement of Greely by the Democratic National convention apparently added no strength to the ticket. Then, but not to the same extent as now, a great many people, who were apparently in the minority, demanded better and purer government. Then, as now, they wanted fewer political bosses, but they did not know what name to give to the reforms they were demanding.

The defeat of Greely put a quietus on reform movement of the American people for some time, but it again broke out when the Populists swept the Republican and Democratic parties aside in many of the states, and it died for lack of good, competent leadership. A lull in the storm ensued, but God in his infinite goodness gave us Theodore Roosevelt for president, and he set about cleaning out the "Augean Stables." He denounced everything that was wrong from race suicide to chicken stealing and the moral sentiment of the country commenced to improve. He kept up a vigorous fight against graft and corruption in office. He refused to follow the footsteps of his dishonest predecessors, and started the digging of the Panama canal. He forced a pure food law through Congress, which the people had demanded for fifty years, and which is saving thousands of lives annually. Railroad, forest reserve and irrigation laws are a few more of his measures. The grafters were grilled and dishonest corporation decisions were advertised and denounced. He talked for better, and untainted courts, and he favors the direct primary and recall. Name one thing that would be beneficial to the people of the United States as a whole that he failed to advocate. All these, and many more that space will not permit me to mention are progressive ideas, and either Roosevelt, La Follette, Cummings, Bryan or Wilson, will continue to fight for them if elected.

It is because I believe in keeping up the reform fight that I am a Progressive. Presi-

dent Taft promised to continue the Roosevelt policies, but he has not kept his word. He has not been either sincere or truthful with the people. He told the people the courts were all right. Do you believe him sincere in this? He said the tariff law he signed was the best ever. Do you believe he was truthful when he said it? If he was, why does he now want the tariff on wool changed and reduced? The platform he was elected on called for a revision and downward too but what did he say to condemn schedule "K"? Please name one word that Mr. Taft has ever said that would tend to improve the moral tone of the people? He is a genuine standpatter. He says everything is all right as it is. He is against the direct primary and the recall and he asks his renomination from the conventions and political bosses that I believe a great majority of the people would like to get rid of.

Now don't accuse Progressives of insincerity. They are not opposed to Taft for any reason except that he will not keep up the battle that has been commenced for better and cleaner government. The men who want a Progressive for president are just as patriotic as those who wish to restore the bosses to power, and I think more so. If you want good government, clean courts and a people's rule, we must fight for it. This the Progressives are doing—the reactionaries are opposing it in my opinion.

John C. Higgins, the prosecutor for the Seattle Bar Association, is one of the few bold, fearless lawyers, and ought to receive all the encouragement that a grateful association of lawyers can give him. His work of purifying the profession will not only be appreciated by the attorneys, but also by the public in general. Higgins deserves a medal, and a gold one at that, and a committee may call on me for a contribution.

When that young daughter returns to her home from school with weary steps and a worn-out look, it is because she is compelled to climb the steps leading to the rooms in the various stories of the building. Some day, perhaps, school boards will be thinking as much about preserving the health of the pupils as to cram them full of education.

In San Francisco, the number of notaries are limited and the office is a good paying proposition.

A recent editorial of Scott C. Bone, described the advantages of good health. That is the only thing I possess that I could divide with my fellow man and still have plenty left.

Don't make fun of a man because he don't smoke a nice looking cigar. Judge Chadwick, one of the most popular men in the state, smokes the awfulest, woe begone looking thing you ever saw.