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The Boomerang of Democracy.

Recently, a speaker in our Assembly spoke of the Referendum as "that boomerang of democracy." It was a telling phrase, glittering with all the lustre of the half-truth. Many people who, in their analysis of a problem, never get beyond its immediate aspects, would call it a whole truth. But as a matter of fact, this phrase cannot be so accepted. The Referendum, as such, is by no means the "boomerang of democracy." No one of rational mind denies that the misguided individuals who attempt to use the keenest weapon of democracy to destroy the State University, which is the nursery ground of democracy, are not only foolish, but self-destructive. These individuals disgrace the weapon they use. But the weapon itself is one of the few safeguards remaining to our democracy. The concentration of powers of government in the hands of the few, even though they constitute our state legislatures, is as dangerous for the social health of the people as is the concentration of wealth by individuals. The Referendum brings legislation with-in direct control of the people. It is an educative force. There may be immediate mistakes, but in the end, individuals will be compelled to acquaint themselves with social facts. By no means let us call the Referendum the "boomerang of democracy." It is the one bright spot in the somewhat dismal condition of our democracy.