## 

E X-PRESIDENT TAFT is still standing pat in his ophas beenition to the principle of direct legislation which spreading. Because of pride in Apmerican statesmen, all citizens have in some degree becei uninfluenced by par-
tisan feeling, we wish he would cease his fulminations against the initiative and referendum. His argmments are
so weak and puerile that their continued utterance and publication will canse ever the darkest shades of repubship of their prophets.
In his latest address Mr. Taft tells his audience, which he means shall include tine whole nation, fhat in adopting
the initiative and referendum in this country we are tak the initiative and referendum in this country we are tak-
ing up with a political system that was found wanting and political governments.
In these arguments Mr. Taft' shows himself to be in-
capable of understanding the philosophy of history. is the key to his failure in the presidency, as it shows him
to be of that type of mind that never sces bevond its time $+1$ ment upon the past ages, and that therefore that which its imperfections-that that which has been rejected was had and that which has been preserved is good. (If this
The student of history knows there have been periods in the history of several nations when justice was more
prevalent than in this age-when the mass of the people prevalent than in this age-when the mass of the people
cnjoved more comparative comfort and happiness than enjoyed more
thev do today
We know there were nations founded upon principles
of goverument that were destroyed in the name of religion by a race that replaced liberty and freedom with slavery, degradation and the most heartrending oppression man is
capable of comprehending. Leaving aside the question of eligion, we might well ask, Was the world the gainer whe the the Spaniard, the Puritan and the Ditch trader?
To be specific, Mr. Taft seems to believe that because
in the early history of the Germanic tribes the laws were made by the people at their public meetings, called the "folk-moot," and that the "folk-moot" was abandoned (or destroyed); that its uselessness or lack of usefulness has tion in this country we are gathering up the politican flot sam and jetsam of former ages
The history of the "folk-moot" shows that it was the it that of a ree people, and as long as the laws were mad he "foll manner the people so governed were free, and when descended to serffom and slavery. Under the "folk moot" the people were all landholders, but after it was los the baronial estates replaced the oi
vator, whe became a feudal tenant.
The "folk-moot" was succeeded by government by th nhabitants of the castles, who counted the cultivators the soil as they did their herds of swine. The priest wa
established as a political factor to assist in keeping them established as a poitical factor to assist in kecping them
in subjection.
and Then came the French revolution, the revolt growin tempt to regain the natural rights of men that they had been robbed of in the name of religion and government. Ever since mankind has been struggling, blindly some times, to regain the natural God-given rights of self-gov
ernment. The contest today is in its final stage, with the yoal in sight. It is in the final stage today, because man kind has not before within 500 years been prepared enjoy these rights as he is today.
in government ang cause of most of the world's injustic ment of the mass of the people. When the world's know edge was preserved in clay tablets and parchment writing write, then the mass of the people were either at the mer of the cruelty and selfishneess of the few who desired t rule, or the cunning and brutality of their own ignoran
kind. In the contest between the masses and the classes, the
masses have always been handicapped by ignorance, for knowledge was restricted to the few. But the diffusion of knowledge through the education of the people and by th press is rapidly preparing the masses for the responsibil Mr. Taft and those like him fail to consider and will not see. The light of popular intelligence will soon dissolve all the dark mysteries of polities and government and
illumine the world with one great idea-a government the people, by the people and for the people.

## SATILE IMESSUIUG CHHESE AINWER

 FOR S55.00 LBEL

| seatrle. April 30.-The jury in the libel suit of Reginald H. Thomagainst the Seattle Times brought in a verdict for $\$ 15,000$ for the plaintiff today. The suit was brought the Times accusing Thomson of corruption in connection with the letson directed all the great regrade and other engineering improvement in seautle. in seattle. | PEKing, April 30.-The Chinese statesmen will meet the Japanene plenipotentiaries tomorrow, when they will present China's reply to the last list of demands submitted by the Toklo government. <br> There is reason to believe the Ch nese reply will contain only a lim ited number of further concensiona. <br> Kodak finishing and supplies at Weston's Camera Shop. Opposite Book Store. |
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## SLEEP-A FACTOR OF LIFE

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Gladys Hanson
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