

HEROES OF INSURGENCY

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Heroes of Insurgency by Thomas Dreier

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THOMAS DREIER

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ROBERT M. LAFOLLETTE

HEROES OF INSURGENCY

By THOMAS DREIER



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FOREWORD

IN offering this book to the public the publishers have made no attempt to cover the field of Insurgency or Progressive Republicanism, for we do not fail to appreciate that the movement is one which has enthusiastic leaders and adherents in practically every state in the Union. In fact, as this book goes to press, reports are coming in from all sections of the country indicating the success of the cause in states little suspected of insurgency, and every day brings to our attention some new champion who is fighting for popular rights.

The one aim of the publishers has been to present short, gripping life stories of the leaders of insurgency in the recent

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sessions of Congress. These eight men whose stories are told in the following pages were the most conspicuous in the legislative battles of the last session.

In their work they have been abundantly aided by many others in Congress whose parts were somewhat less conspicuous, and they have been ably assisted by many who have been fighting for the cause on state issues rather than national ones.

That these men have had much to do with forming the public opinion of to-day is true, but it is equally true that without the moral and voting support of the people back of them they of themselves could have accomplished nothing. These men saw a need and hastened to supply it. That they have succeeded is proved by their careers from then up to now.

Some of these heroes have been fighting for years for true representative

FOREWORD

government. They have suffered poverty, have been misunderstood, have been called enemies of the established order. But always they have fought for the right as they understood it. That their vision was broad has been proved by results. They have been justified in their belief that the American citizen loves squareness and honesty. That they have held firmly to this belief, in spite of the years of inappreciation, compels one to think the more of them.

The study of these brief biographies gives reasons why these men may be called "Heroes of Insurgency." Nothing that can be said here will add strength to the plain stories of their lives. The book is given out with the hope that these men may be helped to materialize more of their dreams which make for truer democracy, and that