

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

AUSTRALASIA.

Corowa, N. S. W., Oct. 7.—On September 20 Mr. Watson, the leader of the Opposition and of the Labor party in the Federal House of Representatives (p. 455), moved a "no-confidence" motion against the Reid ministry. The motion has been debated ever since, and the vote has not yet been taken, but it is practically certain that the ministry will win by two votes.

A "closer settlement" bill has been passed by the State parliament of Victoria (p. 214), giving the State power to purchase large estates, compulsory if necessary, and resell the land in small blocks. An amendment by the leader of the Opposition and Labor party to substitute perpetual leasing for selling was defeated.

A bill on exactly the same lines is promised in New South Wales (p. 455), where more sensible proposals were expected, especially with Mr. Ashton as minister of lands, for he used to be a strong advocate of perpetual leasing.

In New Zealand (p. 455), the Labor party has not so far had such a distinct organization as in Australia, but it is now proposed to form one. As a result of the decision of a conference of delegates from trades and labor councils which met last Easter, a delegate meeting of these bodies was held in Wellington in September last, which drew up the following platform for the Political Labor League:

- (1) A state bank, with the sole right of note issue, which shall be legal tender.
- (2) Abolition of the sale of Crown lands, with periodical revaluations of Crown lands held on lease; resumption of land for closer settlement to be at owner's valuation for taxation purposes, plus ten per cent.; tenants' absolute right to improvements.
- (3) Parliamentary franchise for all local elections, with one man one vote.
- (4) Referendum, with initiative; abolition of the Upper House; elective Executive.
- (5) Statutory preference of employment to unionists.
- (6) Cessation of borrowing, except for redemption of loans and completing works already authorized by Parliament.
- (7) Nationalization of all mineral wealth, and establishment of state iron works, woolen and flour mills, and clothing and boot factories.

In addition, there is a municipal platform, the planks of which include payment to mayors and councillors, the municipalization of industries or services which the electors may decide on; all work to be done by day labor; quinquennial valuations by owner, with the right of the municipality to take over property at such valuation, plus ten per cent., etc. A form of pledge was adopted, which must be signed by candidates for positions.

A deputation of the delegates waited on Mr. Seddon, the prime minister, and placed before him the planks of the platform and other demands. Mr. Seddon

spoke sympathetically regarding several of the views advanced, and criticised others. Referring to the movement to form an independent labor party, he said he understood they were just hiving off, and going over to the position which had been disastrous to the Labor party in Australia. If they parted, however, he felt sure they would part good friends; but felt bound to tell them that but for their connection with the advanced Liberal party in the past they could not have got the labor legislation which had been passed.

ERNEST BRAY.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Nov. 10.

At the Presidential election on the 8th, Theodore Roosevelt was elected by the largest electoral vote ever given to a Presidential candidate in the whole history of the country. The electoral vote for Mr. Roosevelt will be 343. That for Alton B. Parker will be 133—22 less than Wm. J. Bryan received in 1900 and 44 less than he received in 1896, in both of which years the electoral college was smaller than now by 29 votes. This allowance of 343 to Roosevelt includes, however, Colorado and Maryland, both of which are in doubt.

Reports of the popular vote are not yet sufficiently complete to be noted to any advantage for purposes of comparison; but the indications are that Judge Parker's popular defeat is vastly worse than Mr. Bryan's in either of the latter's campaigns. Following are the roughly reported pluralities for Mr. Roosevelt this year in some of the principal States (as compared with those for Mr. McKinley in the same States in 1900):

State.	Roosevelt.	McKinley.
New York	174,691	143,696
New Jersey	61,000	56,899
Connecticut	30,000	28,570
Massachusetts	86,279	81,867
Ohio	210,000	19,036
Indiana	75,000	26,479
Michigan	189,197	104,784
Illinois	292,245	94,924
Wisconsin	130,000	106,581
Minnesota	100,000	77,750
Iowa	140,000	98,543
California	105,000	39,779

The States carried by Mr. Bryan but lost to Judge Parker are (with their electoral votes in the present electoral college) as follows:

Nevada	5
Idaho	3
Montana	3
Missouri	12
Colorado	Doubtful
Maryland	Doubtful

It will be seen, therefore, that the least hopeful predictions, namely, that Judge Parker would fall far behind Mr. Bryan, and not carry even one Northern State, has been more than verified. Not only does he not carry a single Northern State, unless Colorado may turn out to have voted for him, but he loses at least one Southern State, Missouri, and may lose another, in Maryland.

Prior to the election Judge Parker continued to press his charges of extortion and trust support against the Roosevelt administration (p. 486), and Mr. Roosevelt responded. Mr. Roosevelt's response was issued from Washington on the 4th over his own signature. It denounced Judge Parker's accusations as "monstrous," adding that—
if true they would brand both of us [Mr. Cortelyou and Mr. Roosevelt] forever with infamy.

On the subject of corporation contributions Mr. Roosevelt said:

That contributions have been made to the Republican committee, as contributions have been made to the Democratic committee, is not the question at issue. Mr. Parker's assertion is in effect that such contributions have been made for improper motives, either in consequence of threats or in consequence of improper promises, direct or indirect, on the part of the recipients.

In closing Mr. Roosevelt reiterated his denial as follows:

The statements made by Mr. Parker are unqualifiedly and atrociously false. As Mr. Cortelyou has said to me more than once during this campaign, if elected I shall go into the presidency unhampered by any pledge, promise or understanding of any kind, sort or description, save my promise, made openly to the American people, that so far as in my power lies I shall see to it that every man has a square deal, no less and no more.

Judge Parker made at Brooklyn on the 5th a speech which, it had been intimated, would be a reply to Mr. Roosevelt. This speech was to the effect that Mr. Roosevelt had made no denial of receiving campaign contributions from corporations, voted out of their treasuries. This, Judge Parker concluded, was the essence of his accusations, since it is not to be supposed that a trust would expend money belonging to its stockholders unless its purpose was to get something in return.