

rdon to political offenders
ution of 1898 and subse-
o those compelled to join

+
est.

conquest of Tripoli unex-
Turks, assisted by the
ng them hard at the city
Italians believed they had
and in fighting in and
e 23d the Italians lost over
ive estimate, if not a much
aid that 2,000 Turkish and
arried in the outer trenches
to avoid a pestilence the
been drawn in more com-
ootings of the Arabs—men,
e reported on the part of the
city proper and in the dis-
he city within the Italian
e correspondent of the London
a making allowances for the
ilitary situation, there is every
hideous severity employed by
e rise to a war of sanguinary
s upon unfortunates who fall
is merciless; one of its most
s been witnessed here." [See
ge 1101.]

+ +
e Steel Trust.

apparently enormous magnitude
as begun by the Federal Govern-
uit Court of the United States
Jersey, on the 26th for the dis-
eel Trust. [See current volume,
45.]

+
ngs in as defendants the United
poration, 36 of its subsidiary com-
rge number of individuals, includ-
at Morgan, John D. Rockefeller,
ie, Charles M. Schwab, George W.
Gary, Henry C. Frick and P. A. B.
allegations of the bill of complaint
o follow closely the findings of the
ttee of Congress. J. M. Dickinson,
etary of War, is special counsel for
nt in the case. There is a sensa-
ion in the bill of complaint to the
resident Roosevelt was misled and
Frick and Gary into approving the
y the Steel Corporation, of the Ten-
nd Iron Company in order to prevent
panic. In explanation of President
ction the bill of complaint is quoted
that—

if Mr. Roosevelt had been fully advised, he would
have known that a desire to stop the panic was
not the sole moving cause, but that there was also
a desire and purpose to acquire the control of a
company that had recently assumed a position of
potential competition of great significance. . . . It
is certain that the Corporation availed itself of the
embarrassment of Moore & Schley (New York
brokers who had large holdings of Tennessee stock)
at a most critical period, and the hammering of the
Tennessee stock and the threatening of a general
financial calamity, to acquire the control of a com-
petitor, taking on a formidable aspect. The Cor-
poration thus greatly strengthened its control of
the country's iron ore supply, its predominating posi-
tion in the South's iron and steel trade, eliminated
a competitor and unlawfully acquired a power
which is a menace to the welfare of the country and
should be destroyed.

+ +
The Deep Waterway Controversy.

Upon the re-assembling of the Illinois legisla-
ture on the 24th, the deep waterway question came
up in the lower House. [See current volume, page
1077.]

+
There was a test vote on the 24th upon a motion
to adjourn until a late hour on the 25th, to which
the supporters of Governor Deneen were opposed.
It was defeated by 51 to 54, with 46 members ab-
sent.

Meanwhile the Senate bill, designed to cooperate
with the Federal Government on the policy of an
8-foot depth, was reported out of House commit-
tee with a recommendation that it do not pass.
On the 25th this report came before the House for
a vote and was defeated by 59 to 65, with 26
absentees.

+
On the side of Governor Deneen, whose measure
was thus defeated, it was strenuously argued on the
floor of the House that the delay in operations,
consequent upon the defeat of the measure would
enable the Economy Light and Power Company
and its subsidiary corporations (the electric-power
Trust) to monopolize every available water power
site along the route of the proposed canal. It is
contended on the other side that the power Trust
already owns all the water power sites not con-
trolled by the Sanitary District or the State.
Governor Deneen and Senator Lorimer were
aligned in opposition to each other in this fight,
and each side accuses the other of playing into
the hands of the electric power trust.

+ +
**Death of the President of the American Free Trade
League.**

At a special meeting of the American Free
Trade League, Friday, Oct. 27th, the following

resolution was passed in memory of the President, Louis R. Ehrich:

Just when the American Free Trade League is gathered together for a special meeting to rejoice over the recent rapid progress of our cause and to plan for its further advancement; we are shocked and saddened by the sudden news that our beloved President and fellow-worker is no longer with us.

Louis R. Ehrich was thoroughly devoted to the work of freeing our trade from the shackles of the tariff. Although an active business man, he showed his true citizenship and steadfastness to civic ideals, by giving unstintedly his time and money to the cause he loved.

Not only our League, but the whole country and the great world of commerce have lost a patriot.

"It is for us, the living, to be here dedicated to that unfinished task which he has thus far so nobly advanced." Let the memory of our cheerful, unselfish comrade spur us on to the victory for which he labored.

Mr. Ehrich was born in Albany, N. Y., in 1849. He was a graduate of Yale, and studied at the University of Berlin. In politics he was a Gold-Democrat, an Anti-Imperialist and a Free Trader. He was author of "The Question of Silver." [See current volume, pages 481, 491.]



Schoolhouses for Civic Centers.

To understand the significance of the conference on civic and social center development at Madison last week, it is necessary to know something of the "Rochester Idea," out of which this conference grew. [See current volume, page 1078.]



The use of public schoolhouses for social purposes (in the narrow sense of the word "social") is not altogether unusual though not very common. Examples may be found in New York City, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota and other States. The uses usually consist of recreation, parents' club meetings, educational lectures (in the strict technical sense), and the like; but nowhere until Rochester, N. Y., set the example, were school houses used as centers for directly promoting intelligent citizenship. But under the influence of E. J. Ward, a distinguished and irrepressible as well as perceptive social center promoter, and with the aid especially of George M. Forbes, president of the school board, and of Livy S. Richard, now editor of the Boston Common but then of a leading daily paper of Rochester (the man who resigned rather than write editorials for the local ring), the experiment was tried of making the public school houses of Rochester broadly-social neighborhood meeting places. This experiment did not contemplate the abandonment of any of the recreational or educational uses. It involved rather an extension of those uses. But instead of considering

recreation and culture as primary in a democratic community, the "Rochester Idea" made civics fundamental and all comprehensive.



To that end the school houses selected for the experiment in Rochester were given over to the citizens of the school districts, not as a privilege from the school board but as a right of public proprietorship, and not alone for play and culture, but also for free and orderly discussion of any or all questions of public interest which those citizens themselves chose to discuss. The experiment proved highly successful. Attendance was large, discussions were orderly, neighbors came to know one another in their capacity of citizens as well as neighbors, to be tolerant of diverse opinions and to learn the principles and practice of good citizenship; and the more clearly the people realized the basis of right on which these public buildings were thrown open to them, and the democratic responsibilities involved, the stronger did the "Rochester Idea" become. But it soon roused a new kind of opposition. Opposed at first as something the people didn't want, it came as it grew to be opposed as something they oughtn't to have. This opposition moved from quarters so influential in business and politics, that a temporary blight has been put upon the experiment. Starved for need of funds, discouraged by hostile official influences (its principal official friend, Professor Forbes having been withdrawn from the presidency of the school board), the Rochester school house centers, though under a blight, nevertheless persist and their power in public affairs is reviving.



An extension of the "Rochester Idea" over the national field was the evident purpose of calling, the prevailing spirit at and the final action of the Conference at Madison. On the evening before its assembling, Governor Wilson of New Jersey, delivered to a large general audience, including delegates, an address in full harmony with that purpose. The Convention opened on the 26th under the chairmanship of Dr. Josiah Strong, with a representative attendance from 15 States. Every day, to and including the 28th, was fully occupied with a morning session, a midday "round table," an afternoon session and an evening meeting, the evening of the final day being devoted to a banquet with numerous 3-minute speeches. Among the speakers at these various gatherings were Gov. Stubbs of Kansas, Clark W. Hetherington, George M. Forbes, Carroll G. Pearce (president of the National Education Association), Mrs. Mary L. Starkweather (Assistant Labor Commissioner of Minnesota), Clarence A. Perry of the Russell Sage Foundation, Father Knox of St. Patrick's (Roman Catholic) Church of Madison, John Collier, Dean