

thy and active even if discreet cooperation, there would have been no Jameson raid and no war. The South African farmer republics would have gone on working out their own ideals and destiny in independence and peace.

NEWS

At the municipal election in Chicago on the 1st, though in all other respects the election was of local interest only, there was one outcome which is so significant of political progress in certain directions as to challenge general attention. This was the result of the advisory referendum vote, which (pp. 690, 777, 803) we have heretofore explained. The law under which the vote was taken was enacted by the Illinois legislature one year ago. It provides for an advisory vote in municipalities on any question, upon the petition of 25 per cent. of the registered voters. The high percentage is almost prohibitory, but under the energetic management of Daniel Cruice, a young Chicago lawyer and radical democrat, who was cordially and effectively aided by the Chicago American, a petition with 109,000 signatures—some 30,000 more coming in after the expiration of the time limit—was secured. This petition called for a vote on the following propositions:

Ownership by the city of Chicago of all street railroads within the corporate limits of said city.

Ownership by the city of Chicago of the gas and electric lighting plants. Said plants to furnish all heat and power for public and private use.

The nomination of all candidates for city offices by direct vote of the voters at primary elections to be held for that purpose.

Since 104,000 was the number of signatures required by law as the condition of submitting the propositions to a vote, and as the margin beyond that number was only 5,000—but 109,000 of the 140,000 having signed in time—an attempt was made to discredit enough signatures to reduce the total below the legal requirement. A sharp and somewhat prolonged legal fight ensued, but the adversaries of the petition were unable to make a case. The propositions were consequently submitted in due course to the voters of Chicago, who have responded with a full vote and overwhelming majorities for all the propositions.

By full vote is meant a large proportion of the total vote cast for candidates at the election. The total vote for candidates, not yet officially reported, was about 207,926, and the total vote for these amendments was approximately 150,000, or about 72 per cent. The total vote on the propositions was distributed as follows:

For municipal ownership of street railways, 124,594, or nearly 60 per cent. of votes for candidates; against, 25,987, or less than 13 per cent; affirmative majority, 98,607.

For municipal ownership of lighting plants, 124,190, or nearly 60 per cent. of total vote for candidates; against, 19,447, or about 9 per cent; affirmative majority, 104,743.

For nominations for city officers by direct vote of the people at primary elections, 125,082; against, 15,861; affirmative majority, 109,221.

A comparison of this vote with that for abolishing the old township system in the city indicates the relative interest of the voters in all the referendum questions. The total vote on the township question was only 69,281. No legal effect is directly produced by the vote on the advisory referendum described above. As the result is only suggestive, the object of the law being merely to provide for definite expressions of public opinion, the effect can be only political. Advocates of the measures regard the expression of opinion as having been so emphatic in this instance that hostile councilmen and legislators will hereafter be more cautious, while friendly ones will be encouraged to become more bold and uncompromising.

The effect of the Chicago election upon the politics of the city council is not noteworthy. The Democrats elected 17 members and the Republicans 19. The political complexion of the new council will be 39 Republican to 30 Democratic, with 1 independent. Some of the men who were most earnestly opposed by independent voters were reelected. The total number of reelections was 23. Permanent side-party votes were larger than usual, though small, the aggregate of the councilmanic votes for the different wards being reported as follows:

Socialist, 6,031, or 3 per cent. of total.
Prohibition, 2,866, or 1½ per cent. of total.

Single tax (local party), 1,816, or 4-5 of 1 per cent. of total.

Votes of these parties since the presidential election of November, 1900, have been as follows, as reported

at the times respectively, in the daily press;

	Nov., 1900.	Apr., 1901.	Apr., 1902.
Socialist	6,009	7,195	6,031
Prohibition	4,751	2,804	2,866
Single tax	465	950	1,816

Other candidates independent of the two principal parties received at the election of the 1st an aggregate of 7,000 votes.

An exciting mayoralty election came off in Milwaukee, also on the 1st, resulting in the reelection of David S. Rose, Democrat, as mayor, by a plurality of 7,000. A large Socialist vote and defections of Republicans who are opposed to the Payne domination in the Republican party of the State are referred to as accounting for this result. But other influences may have been at work. This is not Mayor Rose's first election. He went into office four years ago by 7,000 plurality and two years ago by 2,401.

Previous to these municipal elections the results of the Democratic primaries held in Arkansas on the 29th had been reported with sufficient fullness to show that Senator James K. Jones, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has been defeated for reelection as United States Senator. He will be succeeded by ex-Gov. James P. Clarke, who is reported to have from 74 to 84 supporters who will be elected to the legislature. Only 67 are necessary to elect. Mr. Jones's defeat is a triumph for the wing of the party which is led by Jefferson Davis, who will be reelected as Governor. The contest between Jones and Clarke was a hot one, though entirely within party lines, as are all the political contests in Arkansas, the election being only a formal confirmation of the action of the Democratic primaries.

Another Southern State, Alabama, is registering voters for election purposes under the new constitution. As predicted, this constitution is being used to disfranchise Negroes, nominally for educational but really for race reasons. A press dispatch of the 27th from Montgomery states that the registration is nearly finished in all the big towns and that less than 1 per cent. of the voters registered are Negroes. Citizens of that race are reported as having been so persistently "turned down" by the registrars, arbitrarily, that in large numbers they have ceased to apply for registration. The constitution under

which this is done was adopted last year. It requires that the legislature shall provide for the permanent registration of voters after the year 1902, and that meantime they may be registered temporarily by county boards appointed by the governor and two other state officers acting as a board of appointment. The persons entitled to temporary registration by the county boards prior to December 29, 1900, are—

(1) males, (2) citizens, or foreign residents who have applied for naturalization, (3) 21 years of age, (4) having honorable military service, or being lawfully descended from persons with honorable military records, or having a good education and being able to understand the duties and obligations of citizenship under a republican form of government, (5) provided, however, that idiots, insane persons, convicts and vagrants are not entitled to registry.

After January 1, 1903, only the following can be registered:

(1) Those who can read and write any article of the constitution of the United States in the English language (unless physically disabled), and who are either physically unfit to work or have worked for the greater part of the year prior to their application for registry; (2) owners in their own right or in that of their wives of 40 acres of land in the state in which they reside, or of Alabama real estate or personalty assessed for taxation at \$300 or more, provided the taxes have been paid.

Nearly nine-tenths of the convention adopting this constitution were Democrats, and the constitutional convention had been called under the influence of the Democratic party of the state. The meaning and purpose of the suffrage clauses quoted above may therefore be regarded as having been authoritatively expounded when the Democratic State Campaign Committee, appointed for the purpose of conducting the ratification campaign, explained the instrument to the voters. The following quotations are from that explanation:

So long as it is necessary to maintain white supremacy in the counties having Negro majorities, and to prevent the inflicting upon any of our people of Negro domination, there has been a disposition in other parts of the State to condone the methods necessary to suppress the Negro vote. But to do that involves the doing of things which the white men in these counties have never desired to do, and which, if done at all, were done only because of what they regarded as a necessity for their own protection and government. . . . The reason for

adopting two plans—one temporary and the other permanent—is best shown by the difficulties which the convention had to meet. The Fifteenth amendment to the Federal constitution was the principal barrier, but there was another condition which good faith required the Democratic members to observe as fully as possible. . . . The party platform pledged that white men should not be disfranchised. To frame a provision that would observe this pledge and eliminate the mass of vicious Negro votes, and yet be constitutional, was no light task; but to it Democratic members of the convention addressed themselves. . . . And we unqualifiedly renew our party's pledge that under the operation of the registration feature of the new constitution no white man who can now vote will be disfranchised. . . . Under the temporary plan the Negroes cannot register. . . . When a man applies for registration he will not be asked to specify under which class he is entitled to register. The list will not show under what clause he is registered. When the party pledge not to disfranchise any white man is remembered, it is easy to see that the above plan will effectuate it. There is a general presumption that white men are of good character and understand the duties and obligations of good citizenship; the history of the race attests this. It is safe to say that the registrars will observe this presumption. This plan will not disfranchise all Negroes. It is well known that there are men of that race who are entirely competent to vote intelligently, and these will have no difficulty in registering. . . . White men insist upon their rights and will not submit to disfranchisement by any registrars, but if necessary will prove their right to register before a jury of their neighbors. The registrars will know this and will not refuse to register them except for good cause. . . . This is a white man's government and it will continue to be so. . . . The failure of the present movement for the new constitution . . . will be almost tantamount to an indorsement of the methods heretofore used, whether honest or dishonest, to control elections. . . .

The only other political news of the week of general interest is the calling of the Republican convention of Illinois to meet at Springfield on the 8th of May; of the Democratic convention of the same state to meet at Springfield on the 17th of June; the nomination on the 2d of the Republican State ticket of Oregon, headed by W. J. Furnish as candidate for governor, to be voted on in June; and the assembling of the first convention of a new national party, the

Allied party, at Louisville on the 2d. The Illinois conventions are of national importance because two factions of the Republican party in this state are so bitterly at war among themselves that the Democrats are confident of carrying the state next fall and securing a senatorship. The Allied party is another attempt to secure an organic union of the various "reform forces" of the country. The attendance of delegates on the 2d is reported as 75 from eight states. Col. J. S. Felter, of Springfield, Mo., was elected temporary chairman.

In Congress the Republican majority of the House of Representatives has agreed upon a bill regulating the tariff between this country and Cuba (see p. 673), by a general reduction of 20 per cent. on the Dingley law schedules. The measure was agreed to by the committee on ways and means of the lower house by 12 to 5. The majority included 3 Democrats and the minority 2 Republicans. The bill was thereupon, on the 31st, reported favorably to the House. Some Republican opposition to the reduction is looked for, but Republicans who are dissatisfied with the smallness of the reduction are expected to support the bill.

As the United States prepares to adjust its relations with the new republic, Cuba, a more amicable attitude is assumed by Colombia, with reference to the Isthmian canal, than what seemed probable at the time of our last report (p. 760) on that subject. She has submitted to this country for consideration a protocol, disclosed on the 31st,—

1. Embracing an entirely new concession to the United States, irrespective of the old concession to the Panama Canal company of France.
2. Consenting to and legalizing in every way the sale of the Panama company's property to the United States, and removing all question as to the validity of the title.
3. Proposing to grant the United States control, through perpetual lease, of a strip of territory amply wide for canal purposes.
4. Agreeing that all questions of police and sanitary control shall be satisfactorily adjusted.
5. Taking full cognizance of the existing treaty between the United States and Colombia, which binds the United States to preserve the freedom of transit through the Isthmus of Panama.

It is understood that the price asked for the concession is an annual sti-