

rennial meeting the word "Protestant" was eliminated from its declaration of objects so as to open the way for the co-operation of all churches. Its objects under the amended declaration are:

1. To express the fellowship and catholic unity of the Christian church.
2. To bring the Christian bodies of America into united service for Christ and the world.
3. To encourage devotional fellowship and mutual counsel concerning the spiritual life and religious activities of the churches.
4. To secure a larger combined influence for the churches of Christ in all matters affecting the moral and social conditions of the people.

[See current volume, page 1164.]



The Vocational School Question in Illinois.

"Commercial and Industrial Education" was the subject of the Fourth Conference of the Western Economic Society held in Chicago December 6 and 7, and the same subject was prominent in the Chicago Principals' Club also on the 7th. At the Conference—during part of which Charles H. Winslow of the Federal Bureau of Labor presided *pro tem*—several educators spoke on the method of introducing vocational studies into public education. The so-called "Cooley plan"—which in Illinois proposes to establish by legislative enactment separate vocational schools, aided by State funds and administered by a separate vocational Board to be composed of two representatives of skilled labor, two employers of labor, and three educators—was presented and advocated by Edwin G. Cooley, former Superintendent of Schools in Chicago. Emphatically opposed to this plan was William J. Bogan, Principal of the Lane Technical High School of Chicago, who read a paper before the Conference, and Hiram L. Loomis, Principal of the Hyde Park High School, who took part in the discussion. Eugene Davenport, Dean of Agriculture in the University of Illinois, in his address showed himself also a strong opponent of any separation of vocational from other schools, speaking in particular against the Page-Wilson bill—now for twelve years before Congress—which would grant Federal moneys to the States for separate agricultural and industrial schools. Other Illinoisans on the program included Francis G. Blair, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Illinois; William M. Roberts, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Chicago; Jane Addams; and Professors Charles H. Judd and Frank M. Leavitt, of the University of Chicago.



Peace in Santo Domingo.

The little Negro-Spanish West Indian Republic of Santo Domingo, apparently under some fear of more intervention on the part of the United States, has succeeded in establishing a compromise gov-

ernment under which she hopes to work out her revolutionary and financial problems. Eladio Victoria, elected President a year ago for the usual term of six years, resigned his office to the Dominican Congress on November 28th. All political prisoners were immediately released from confinement and hostilities were suspended. Archbishop Nouel was elected as Provisional President on the 1st, on a basis acceptable to both parties. Elections will be held within two years for the re-establishment of the regular government. [See current volume, page 1094.]



Armistice Closes the First Chapter of the Balkan War.

An armistice suspending hostilities was signed on the 3rd by Turkish and Bulgarian plenipotentiaries, the latter also representing Serbia and Montenegro. The absence of a formal assent to the armistice on the part of Greece gave rise at first to rumors of dissensions between the allies. It was said later, however, that Greece delayed, hoping to gain more territory in Epirus and to complete the capture of the island of Chios, also with intention of preventing Turkish reinforcements from reaching Thrace by sea, and that she either has since signed, or will practically observe the armistice. [See current volume, page 1159.]



The British government, through its foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey, has invited the nations party to the war, and the great Powers having interests involved, to hold a peace conference in London for the settlement of the war and its related problems. The invitation has been accepted and the conference is set for Friday, the 13th, at the historic palace of St. James. The contesting nations will be represented by plenipotentiaries, and the ambassadors of the great Powers accredited at London will be charged with protecting the interests of their respective nations, and will also act as a sort of court of appeals, to watch, advise, and admonish the peace envoys.



One of the most difficult points at issue in the negotiations is Serbia's unquenchable determination to acquire an Adriatic seaport, as opposed to Austria's absolute resolve that she shall not obtain such a port. Austria is said to have 300,000 troops within striking distance of the Servian frontier, ready for a war over this seaport question. It was reported on the 9th that Austro-Hungarian authorities had stopped at Fiume (a Hungarian port on the Adriatic) 800 tons of flour destined for the Servian army at Durazzo, and would confiscate it for the Austrian army, though there is at present no declared war between the two nations.

Aeroplane experience on the part of the Bulgarians in the war just closing is to the effect that bombs dropped from aeroplanes readily set fire to a city or to large inflammable buildings, but can not be dropped with accuracy enough, keeping at safe heights from infantry fire, to hit battery positions or small bodies of troops. One French aviator, Dr. Jules Constantin, flew over the Turkish lines at the Tchatalja forts, with the object of dropping bombs on the Turkish troops. His biplane disappeared rapidly and some hours later was seen to descend near the Bulgarian camp. The aviator was found lying on the ground dead, with a wound in his chest. The wings of the biplane had also been pierced by bullets. The instruments showed that he had reached a height of nearly 4,000 feet. He had photographed the Turkish lines and evidently had been shot, but had strength to guide the machine back before he expired. [See current volume, page 1159.]

NEWS NOTES

—Over 10,000 women voted at the school board election in Fall River, Mass., on the 3rd.

—In Los Angeles the proposed charter providing a commission form of government was defeated. [See current volume, page 1043.]

—The proposed commission government charter for Duluth was adopted by the people at the election on the 3rd. [See current volume, pages 969, 1135.]

—The impeachment trial of Judge Archbald of the Commerce Court began last week before the Senate of the United States. [See current volume, page 706.]

—The Chicago Evening World, successor to the Daily Socialist, suspended publication on the 4th. Its affairs have gone into the hands of a receiver in bankruptcy. [See current volume, pages 488, 512.]

—Brand Whitlock, Mayor of Toledo, returned on the 6th from a European trip for a study of municipal systems to aid in framing a charter for Toledo under the home-rule provisions of the new Constitution of Ohio. He pursued these civic studies in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Belgium and Germany.

—Edward McHugh of Birkenhead, England, passed through Chicago on the 7th on his way around the world after working a year for the Joseph Fels Fund in Australia and New Zealand. He sails from New York for Liverpool on the 17th. Australasian Singletax papers are enthusiastic over Mr. McHugh's speaking campaigns in that part of the world.

—The government of Great Britain presented on the 9th to the American Secretary of State a formal note of protest against that section of the Panama Canal Act of the Congress of the United States, which exempts American coastwise shipping from tolls for passage through the Panama Canal. This note is an elaboration of the objections outlined in a less formal note presented to the State Department

in July last. [See current volume, pages 802, 818, 827, 841.]

—Dr. William Demos Crum, United States Minister to Liberia, died at Charleston, S. C., on the 7th, of African fever, in his 54th year. Dr. Crum was a well educated and accomplished Negro who was born in Charleston and practiced medicine there for nearly thirty years. He held the position of Collector of the Port of Charleston from 1904 to 1910, under appointment by President Roosevelt. He was appointed American Minister resident and Consul-general to Liberia in 1910 by President Taft.

—At the National Housing Conference at Philadelphia on the 4th, 5th and 6th, fifty-three cities and towns of the United States and Canada were represented with a view to the improvement of living conditions in the homes of both poor and rich. The great obstacle to good housing, as the work of the Conference proceeded, appeared to be heavy taxation on buildings and building materials and the higher prices of building lots which improved housing stimulates. The next Conference is to be held in Boston.

—In a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on the 9th the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission over the Union Stock Yards and Transit Company of Chicago was upheld. Under this decision the Commerce Court is required to issue an injunction against the above named company's contract with Pfaelzer & Sons, packers, by which the company was to pay that firm \$50,000 as a bonus for locating along the company's tracks. The Supreme Court interprets this contract as an agreement for rebating and as therefore in violation of the Elkins law.

—A reprieve of five men convicted of murder and awaiting execution in Oregon, whose execution had been postponed by Governor West until the Referendum vote on capital punishment at the recent election, was asked at a mass meeting in Portland on the 8th on the ground that the vote in favor of continuing capital punishment was by men only. The reprieve asked for is for the purpose of delaying execution until a Referendum may be had in which women may participate, woman suffrage having been adopted at the same election at which capital punishment was retained.

—The Nebraska Woman Suffrage Association in session at Omaha on the 6th decided to use the newly adopted Initiative by securing the necessary petition of 38,000 signatures for submitting a woman suffrage amendment to the people in 1913. They will also try to secure from the legislature this winter an amendment to be submitted in 1914. As the Nebraska Initiative prohibits its use for the same purpose oftener than once in three years, this policy will enable the suffragists to secure, if necessary, a popular vote in 1913 by popular initiative, in 1914 by legislative initiative and in 1916 by popular initiative. The Association has divided the State into eleven working districts, with a central headquarters in each. It excludes all other questions than woman suffrage from its campaigning.

—An extensive system of Federal supervision of wireless telegraphy becomes effective this week in the United States under an act of Congress of the