

sult is described as a rebuke to machine politics. The railroad interests of James J. Hill have for years dictated Republican politics in North Dakota, and this year these interests went so far as to try to capture the Supreme Court by its Republican nominations. In consequence the Democratic candidates made a speaking campaign on "gangism," freight rates, tax valuations and primaries, and, as stated above, the Democratic candidates for Governor and Supreme Court were elected.

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In Kansas the doubt of last week (p. 750) has by the official canvass been resolved in favor of Gov. Hoch, the Republican candidate for Governor, who is re-elected by 1,986; and in Iowa (p. 750) Gov. Cummins is re-elected.

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#### Referendum on a Public Land Sale.

On a "little ballot"—the local name for referendum—the people of Illinois voted on the 7th on the question of selling the lands of the Illinois and Michigan Canal (from Chicago to Joliet) to the highest bidder. The proposition was defeated in Cook County (the Chicago county) by a majority of 37,575; but the vote in the rest of the State was large enough to overcome this adverse majority.

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The resolution providing for this referendum was introduced in the Illinois Legislature, May 6, 1905, by Representative Arnold of Galesburg, and did not receive much consideration from the House. The land to be disposed of if the vote of the State is made into a law comprises the channel of the canal from Thirty-ninth street and the river, Chicago, to the north end of the sanitary district in Joliet, and ninety feet on each side of this forty foot bed. A great deal of land along the sides of the canal has been disposed of, so that practically all that remains is the channel of the canal. This channel has a value in direct proportion to what some railroad or electric company wishes to give for it. For this purpose alone it is immensely valuable, as it is parallel to the Chicago and Alton and the Santa Fe railroads. The canal has had a history dotted with attempts to get appropriations to keep it alive. The money which it has brought in never has been enough to maintain it. Its original cost was nearly \$14,000,000, and every year since 1873, until four years ago, has been from \$25,000 to \$200,000. Four years ago the appropriation asked for was carried into the courts and defeated. Last year the canal commissioners asked for \$3,000 to make the Illinois river navigable, and Gov. Deneen then gave them to understand that no more money would be forthcoming unless the Illinois and Michigan canal was made navigable.

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#### The National Congress on Uniform Divorce Laws.

At the first session of the National Congress on Divorce Laws, held in February and March of this year in Washington (vol. viii, pp. 768, 782, 803, 821), it was concluded that Federal control of this matter was impracticable, and a committee was appointed to draft a bill which should be considered at a second session to be called by the president of the congress. Governor Pennypacker of Pennsylvania, such bill,

if approved by the congress, then to be presented to the several States with requests for adoption.

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This deferred session opened in Philadelphia on the 13th Governor Pennypacker presiding. Delegates from 27 states and the District of Columbia, and representatives from the Protestant denominations represented in the first session, as well as the Catholic bishop of South Dakota, were in attendance. The Chicago Inter Ocean thus summarized the grounds for divorce recommended in the bill presented:

These causes are infidelity, felony, bigamy, desertion, habitual drunkenness, and intolerable cruelty. Marriages of persons, one of whom, unknown to the other, was insane at the time of marriage, are to be annulled. The marriage of a girl under 16 years of age and a boy under 18 is also to be annulled.

The dispatch continues: "There was little opposition to any of these provisions. In the list of causes for annulment of marriage opposition was presented against several." The most prolonged discussions related to insanity as a cause of divorce.

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#### Porto Rico Elections.

In Porto Rico on the 7th a contest between Republicans and Unionists for seats in the Colonial legislature, was won by the Unionists. They carried all the seven districts by overwhelming majorities.

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#### British Politics.

The British cabinet is reported as having under consideration a plan for reorganizing the government of Ireland. The plan provides for the establishment of a central or castle board, for an educational department, a department of agriculture and for the transfer of land. It also creates an Irish council, to which from two-thirds to three-fourths of the members would be elected on the existing parliamentary franchise, and the rest on a restricted franchise. Clergymen of all denominations would be eligible to membership in the council. Ireland would retain her present representation in the Imperial Parliament, and the police would remain under imperial control, but be reduced in number. Among the drafters of the plan are: James Bryce, chief secretary for Ireland; John Redmond, leader of the Irish party in the House of Commons; John Dillon, member of Parliament for East Mayo, and Sir Antony MacDonnell, undersecretary to the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

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The education bill as amended by the House of Lords (pp. 731, 752) is regarded by the government as an impossibility. Mr. Augustine Birrell, President of the Board of Education, says that as the measure came from the House of Commons it was undenominational, but the Lords had fostered and bolstered up denominationalism. The Tribune declares that if the present bill is destroyed the alternative will be to substitute a secular system of religious education.

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The obstructionist character of the House of Lords

In this matter, as already reported in these columns (p. 731), is creating a crisis in which coercion is freely threatened, and the very existence of the House seems to be imperiled. A measure proposed, and already roughly drafted, for meeting such situations is the introduction of the referendum. This would be less revolutionary and more constructive than any "superannuation" of the Lords. A special dispatch to the New York Herald states that the referendum bill would lay down that if and when the two houses could not agree as to the provisions of any bill, either house might in passing the bill in the form desired by the other house, insert without further debate or conference a proviso that before being submitted for royal assent the bill should be referred to the electors of the United Kingdom, a poll of the people being taken in the manner prescribed by the act.

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#### Russian Disfranchisement Continues.

Further interpretations of the election laws relative to the elections for the second Douma continue to disfranchise thousands of the poorer classes (p. 703). City employes, the operating personnel of the railroads and even the locomotive engineers, the most skilled and highest paid labor in Russia, are affected by an interpretation of the 7th. On the 10th the senate, which is dictating the interpretations, ruled that government railroad employes who inhabit buildings owned by the railroad cannot vote. This will exclude 60 per cent. of this class, or 102,000 men out of 170,000 men, from voting. Another declaration removes from the voting list 8,000 employes of factories owned by the ministries of war and marine at St. Petersburg who were allowed to vote at the last election. The senate also has made a sweeping reduction in the peasant vote by excluding those who have bought land from the peasants' bank. Dispatches from Odessa under date of the 11th, state that all the electoral committees in his city and in the provinces have been suppressed and their functions have been transferred to the own councils. The arrangements made by these committees have been canceled and their official posters have been removed from the walls of Odessa by the police. These measures, which are intended to prevent the mass of the people from taking part in the campaign for the election of members to the lower house of the Douma, are said to have produced a painful impression.

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The Constitutional Democrats, at a closed conference in Moscow on the 12th, decided to drop entirely as candidates for re-election to the second Douma all members of the first Douma against whom the government had instituted proceedings for the signing of the Viborg manifesto (pp. 418, 610).

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## NEWS NOTES

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—Mayor Dunne of Chicago and Mayor Johnson of Cleveland were in consultation at Chicago on the 12th over the Chicago traction question (p. 732).

—Earth tremblings and a fall of ashes were reported from the neighborhood of Mt. Vesuvius on

the 10th. The disturbances are not believed to presage another eruption (p. 29).

—The American Federation of Labor met in its 26th annual convention on the 12th at Minneapolis. A strong tendency toward political action was exhibited among the delegates and in some of the official reports.

—Major General William Rufus Shafter, commander of the land forces of the Americans at the capture of Santiago de Cuba during the Spanish war, died near Bakersfield, Cal., of pneumonia on the 12th, at the age of 71 years.

—New York City, through its corporation counsel, is removing architectural encroachments upon the sidewalk space of Fifth avenue, preliminary to having the carriageway of the street widened to accommodate the constantly increasing vehicle traffic.

—The first Negro State fair ever held was opened at Macon, Ga., on the 12th. An opening address was made by Booker T. Washington. A good display of agricultural products, Negro inventions, women's work, fine arts, slavery relics and handiwork of the crafts is reported.

—Professor Frederick Starr of the University of Chicago, who has been in darkest Africa for a year, is to conduct a class in the University next winter on "The People of the Congo Free State." He has lived with and studied especially the pygmy race of the Upper Congo (p. 611).

—Culebra Peak, an apparently extinct volcano of great altitude in the Sangre de Christo range in southern Colorado, was reported on the 9th as being in a state of eruption. Vapor and huge tongues of flame shooting up hundreds of feet were seen at night from Stonewall, 12 miles away.

—Mrs. Esther Sumner Damon, reported as the last surviving widow of a soldier of the Revolution, has died at her home in Plymouth Union, Vt., at the age of 93 years. She was married in 1835 when she was 21 years old to Noah Damon, who was then 75 years of age. Damon served through the Revolutionary war, having enlisted in 1775.

—President Roosevelt left Washington on the 8th for a visit to Panama, where he is due on the 15th. He makes the voyage in the battleship Louisiana, and will keep in constant communication with Washington by means of radio-telegraphy. This is the first time a President of the United States has visited foreign territory during his tenure of office.

—China is preparing herself for a constitution. An imperial edict published in the Official Gazette of Peking, on the 7th, outlines many changes in the administration system, such as the consolidation of various boards, the creation and abolition of others, and the establishment of a political council, whose duty shall be to gather public opinion. The edict says these changes are made solely as the foundation for a constitution.

—A head-on collision on the Baltimore & Ohio, forty-six miles east of Chicago, in the early morning of the 12th, between a train consisting of five carloads of passengers and a freight train, resulted in the death of about sixty persons, most of them being burned to ashes, and the serious injury of fifty-two other persons. The passengers were chiefly