

We have reason to rejoice over these beginnings of the insurgent movement in both the Democratic and Republican ranks. The Federation of Democratic Clubs adopted Direct Legislation as its cardinal principle; and as the Keystone party has already written the Initiative, Referendum, and Recall into its platform, there are signs of better days in Pennsylvania, where public servants have with astonishing indifference ignored the rights of their constituents.

BERNARD B. MCGINNIS.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, June 20, 1911.

Federal Initiative, Referendum and Recall.

At the opening of the day's session of the Senate of the United States on the 12th, two memorials with reference to the Initiative, Referendum and Recall for national purposes were submitted by the Vice-President as having been adopted by the legislature of Wisconsin and duly certified by the President of the Wisconsin Senate, the speaker of the Assembly, and the chief clerk of each House. The first of these Wisconsin proposals is as follows:

Joint resolution (J. Res. 43, S.) memorializing Congress to take proper steps toward a Constitutional amendment providing for Initiative, Referendum, and Recall.

Whereas the principle involved in the Initiative, the Referendum, and the Recall, is thoroughly democratic and American; and whereas the American people have repeatedly evidenced their desire to have an opportunity to voice their sentiments through these forms of expression: Therefore be it resolved by the Senate (the Assembly concurring), That we respectfully memorialize the Congress of the United States speedily to take such steps as will result in the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for the Initiative, the Referendum, and the Recall in relation to Federal legislation and officials; and be it further resolved, That a copy of the foregoing be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of State to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each of the Senators and Representatives from this State.

The second Wisconsin proposal is as follows:

Joint resolution (J. Res. 42, S.) memorializing Congress to take proper steps for the adoption of an amendment to the Federal Constitution providing that such Constitution may hereafter be amended by the Initiative.

Whereas the Constitution of the United States should be rendered somewhat flexible in order to meet changing political and economic conditions;

and whereas the amendment of such Constitution by the Initiative is a method founded upon thoroughly democratic and American principles: Therefore be it resolved by the Senate (the Assembly concurring), That we respectfully memorialize the Congress of the United States promptly to take such steps as will result in the adoption of an amendment to the Federal Constitution providing that such Constitution may hereafter be amended by the Initiative; and be it further resolved, That a copy of the foregoing be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of State to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each of the Senators and Representatives from this State.

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La Follette for President.

At a meeting on the 17th of the Minnesota Progressive League at Minneapolis, a resolution was adopted indorsing Senator La Follette of Wisconsin as the Progressive candidate of the Republican party for President, and recommending favorable action to all of the Progressive Republican organizations in the State. [See current volume, pages 34, 417.]

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Canadian Reciprocity.

When the report of the Senate finance committee, on the Canadian reciprocity agreement, came before the Senate on the 13th—a report without recommendation—the chairman of the committee, Senator Penrose, was heckled by other Senators as to the committee's reason for failing to make recommendations. Senator Williams, in behalf of Senators Stone and Kern and of himself, presented a statement favoring the agreement. Senator McCumber presented one in opposition. Senator La Follette presented one representing the Insurgent attitude. Senator Nelson filed a protest from farmers. Mr. La Follette's statement appears in full in the Congressional Record of June 13, at pages 1990, 1991 and 1992. Mentioning the Canadian agreement, it declares:

It is perfectly consistent for one who believes in free trade to support it. I respectfully submit that no man who believes either in a tariff for revenue only or in a protective tariff can consistently give it his support. In the belief that duties should represent the difference in the cost of production at home and abroad, with others I contended, when the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill was pending, for reductions in duties to that level in so far as the information then at hand furnished any safe criteria to determine rates upon that principle. I shall continue to advocate tariff legislation based upon that principle. I believe in reciprocity. I believe in reciprocity with Canada. The mutual give and take of tariff concessions between our country and our world neighbors, along the lines laid down by Blaine and McKinley, is a policy that has in view the best welfare of all concerned. The fair exchange of commercial privileges between the people of two great producing and con-

suming and interdependent nations must result in good for both. But I protest against this proposed revision of our tariff by Executive mandate. I protest against this diplomatic bargain that is masquerading in the guise of reciprocity. It is not reciprocity. It is not a fair exchange of tariff advantages between our citizens and the citizens of Canada. It is a tariff trade, conceived in special-interest selfishness, negotiated in secret, and brought into the open with the attractive label of reciprocity as a bid for favor of the American public—a people who believe sincerely in reciprocity that is genuine. The injustice and the unfairness of this one-sided arrangement, when fully understood by all people who believe in justice and fair dealing, will meet with the resentment it merits. Reciprocity—true reciprocity—implies a fair exchange between those whose products are the subjects of the exchange. This compact, the ratification of which is demanded without change, without the exercise of a legislative judgment on the part of Congress, is, in plain English, an Executive bargain, the terms of which require the farmer to surrender his market at an enormous loss to secure valuable concessions to a few prosperous special interests. That is all. President Taft's Canadian pact will increase the profits of the railroads, the milling interests, and the beef trust.

[See current volume, page 560.]

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The Illinois Deepwater Way.

In the Illinois Senate Governor Deneen's water way measure was reported out of committee favorably on the 14th; and with minor amendments, approved by Governor Deneen, it passed the Senate on the 15th by a vote of 30 to 7. [See current volume, page 564.]

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Hearst-Harrison Organization in Illinois.

Under the lead of Andrew M. Lawrence (representative of William Randolph Hearst) and Mayor Harrison, a conference committee of Illinois Democrats, originating in a recent complimentary banquet to Mr. Lawrence, was held at Chicago on the 17th. The following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, this committee believes that the complete union and future success of the Democratic party of Illinois must depend upon the fidelity and courage with which the party devotes itself to clean Jeffersonian principles, and the uncompromising repudiation of possible selfish boss control; and whereas, events have created in this State and in the nation a supreme issue between the selfish private and corporate interests and the people; and whereas, without any purpose to serve individual interests or promote the fortunes of any particular candidate, this committee desires to completely organize the sound and patriotic Democracy of Illinois; Therefore, be it resolved: That there be appointed a State Progressive Democracy committee on organization, with the following representation: Ten from each Congressional district in the State; provided, that in Congressional districts where there are more than ten

counties the representation from that district shall be one from each county; and provided further, that the members of the present committee of fifteen shall be ex-officio members of the State Progressive Democracy committee on organization.

The meeting was held behind closed doors. It is to reconvene on the 30th at the LaSalle Hotel, Chicago. [See current volume, page 563.]

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Labor Protest Against Kidnaping.

To the reported number of 80,000; a mass meeting of workingmen and women was held at Chicago on the 18th to voice a protest, as described by the Chicago Daily Socialist of the 19th, "against the efforts of the United States Steel Corporation to hang J. J. McNamara and wreck union labor." Seymour Stedman presided. The first speaker after him was Jacob C. Le Bosky, who was followed by Frank M. Ryan, president of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers. Mr. Ryan described in detail the kidnaping of McNamara at Indianapolis and the ransacking of the desks and files of the international union. He was followed by Congressman Victor L. Berger. Meanwhile a sympathetic telegram had been read from Congressman Frank Buchanan, former president of the bridge and structural iron organization. Following are the resolutions adopted by the meeting:

Whereas, on April 22, 1911, the latest outrage of organized capital against organized labor was committed by the unlawful kidnaping of J. J. McNamara from his office at Indianapolis, and carrying him, without due process of law, three thousand miles to Los Angeles, there to be tried on the charge of having murdered men he never saw and never knew; and whereas, the charge made is made against McNamara in name, but against union labor in fact; therefore, be it resolved, by the trade unionists and Socialists of Chicago, that the arrest and kidnaping of J. J. McNamara is in violation of the fundamental law of the United States and of common right and justice; and be it further resolved, that we affirm our faith in J. J. McNamara and pledge to his defense our moral and financial support; and be it further resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be given to the press and a copy sent to J. J. McNamara and his brother in jail in Los Angeles.

Only meager reports of the meeting were published in the Chicago papers other than the Chicago Daily Socialist.

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Woman Suffrage Demonstration in London.

One of the demonstrations preceding the formal coronation of King George on the 22nd, was a parade of women on the 17th from the Victoria Embankment to Albert Hall, in honor of the movement for votes for women. Advocates of woman suffrage from all parts of the world, and numbering some 50,000, marched in review before