

Cincinnati) whereby delegates have been selected by self-perpetuating committees of the Democratic "machine."

Included in the call for this convention are two important requirements. The convention is required, for one thing, to take action on pending amendments to the State constitution, which are by law made subject to party approval or disapproval with the effect of allowing all "straight" ballots to count in support of the party's action. The other requirement is that the convention shall nominate the party candidate for United States senator, thus doing away with legislative lobbying and trading in senatorial elections. Both requirements are inserted in the call pursuant to the instructions of the State convention of 1902, embodied in the platform (vol. v, p. 344) which reads on this point as follows:

That until United States senators are required by amendment of the Federal constitution to be elected by popular vote, nominations of candidates for United States senator should be made by State conventions. And we hereby direct that in the official call for the next Democratic State convention of Ohio there be embodied a clause providing for the nomination at that convention of the Democratic candidate for United States senator; and a clause providing for action by said convention upon all the amendments to the State constitution then pending before the people.

There is a new turn in the Chicago traction problem (vol. v, p. 730), which came to a deadlock, before the municipal election, over the demand of the city and the refusal of the companies that all claims under the so-called 99-years franchise from the State be abandoned by the companies before the city would negotiate with them for an extension of the expiring city franchises. The West Chicago Street Railroad Co. and the North Chicago Street Railroad Co., together with the "holding" company—the Chicago Union Traction Co.—were sued on the 22d by the Guaranty Trust Co., of New York, in the United States Circuit Court, and receivers applied for. All the parties were represented in court on that day, and three receivers were appointed without objection. They are Rafael R. Govin, of New York, and James H. Eckels and Marshall E. Sampson, of Chicago. The formal grounds for the suit were

alleged indebtedness of the Chicago companies to the New York company, which the former cannot pay. But the papers in the case show that the purpose of the proceedings is to bring the city into the Federal courts, against Federal receivers instead of local corporations, on the question of the validity of the 99-years franchise granted by the Illinois legislature in 1865. For one feature of the complaint of the New York company refers to this question by pleading with reference to the city of Chicago that "it has been publicly stated by the mayor of said city and by members of said city council and the local transportation committee of said council that no application for renewal of franchises will be granted unless said North Chicago City Railway Co. and said Chicago West Division City Railway Co. shall renounce, abandon and repudiate the obligation and authority conferred and imposed by the aforesaid act of the legislature."

After a long period of municipal life under village methods fastened upon it by constitutional provisions, and strenuous efforts to escape from these restrictions, Chicago may now see the way almost clear to a system of complete self-government. The necessary constitutional amendment passed both houses of the legislature on the 22d, and will be submitted to the people of the State at the next election. If then adopted the legislature will be empowered to pass laws relative to the city of Chicago authorizing—

1. The consolidation in the municipal government of the powers now vested in the county, city, board of education, township, park, and other local governments within its territory.
2. The assumption by Chicago of all debts and liabilities of the governments or corporate authorities within its limits.
3. The abolition of offices, the functions of which shall be otherwise provided for.
4. The providing for annexation of territory to or disconnection of territory from Chicago, by consent of the voters.
5. The creation of municipal courts and the abolition of the offices of justices of the peace, police magistrates, and constables, within the city limits.
6. The limiting of the jurisdiction of justices of the peace in Cook county to territory outside the limits of Chicago.
7. The authorizing of the legislature

to pass all laws necessary to give Chicago a complete system of self-government.

But no law for local self-government is to take effect until consented to by a majority of the legal voters of Chicago who vote on the proposition; and no local or special law based upon the amendment affecting specially any part of the city of Chicago can take effect until consented to by a majority of the legal voters of such part of the city who vote on that question.

To facilitate the adoption of this amendment by the people of the State—or, rather, to prevent its failure through the indifference of voters outside of Cook county—a bill has been introduced by L. Y. Sherman for the adoption of the Foote system of voting on constitutional amendments now in vogue in Ohio. The Sherman bill provides that when a constitutional amendment is endorsed or opposed by a party convention all the "straight" votes of that party shall count for or against the amendment, as the case may be, unless the amendment square on the ballot is otherwise marked.

NEWS NOTES.

—President Roosevelt (p. 25) was still in Yellowstone Park on the 22d.

—The International Kindergarten Union was in session last week at Pittsburgh.

—The ninth annual meeting of the National Municipal League began at Detroit on the 22d.

—The national convention of the Young Women's Christian Association opened at Wilkesbarre on the 17th.

—On the 22d a memorial meeting in honor of the late John P. Altgeld, formerly governor of Illinois, was held by the Illinois legislature in the State house at Springfield.

—The German reichstag resumed its sessions on the 21st after a recess (p. 662): A bill providing for greater secrecy of the ballot was passed against the opposition of the extreme conservatives.

—Trumbull White, one of the best known of Chicago newspaper writers, a correspondent of wide travel and varied experience, announces a short story magazine, *The Red Book*, to be published at Chicago under his own editorship.

—Among the Socialist candidates elected to office at the recent municipal elections (p. 25) are three of the five members of the board of education of Peetzburg, Bergen County, N.