

From the New York Times, Tuesday, October 4—

The renomination of "No-Pass" Baker, as he has come to be known since his somewhat sensational refusal of a pass from a railroad upon his entering Congress, caused much satisfaction among the radicals of the local Democracy, of which Mr. Baker is a leader. Mr. Baker's friends assert that he has made himself more felt in Washington than any Representative sent out from Brooklyn in recent years, and that he has earned a renomination. His district is Republican usually, but Mr. Baker is believed to have a good chance of reelection because of factional differences among the Republicans.

Mr. Baker's single tax friends realize that if he is reelected he will exert a greater influence in the halls of Congress than in his first term, especially so if the House should be Democratic.

D. S. LUTHER.

## NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Oct. 6.

A marked change has taken place in the Chicago traction situation (p. 410), in consequence, apparently, of the complete success of the emergent petition for a referendum vote next Spring under the public policy law. On the 3d a committee waited upon the Mayor with proof that the petition had been signed by 110,259 voters and notice that it awaited his inspection. He replied:

I can only say, as I have said before, that if this petition stands scrutiny and is sufficient numerically, all my efforts will be used to delay action on the tentative ordinance until the people have been heard upon it at the polls. I do not think it was fair, however, to introduce any other questions on the petition except the one to approve or disapprove the tentative ordinance. The others tend to confuse the mind of the public. To get the petition presented and acted upon it will be necessary for it to contain the names of 25 per cent. of the registered voters of Chicago at the coming registration. There is nothing now for the election commissioners to act upon, for they cannot tell the number that the petition must show. So far as I am concerned, I repeat again, that, if the petition is made, all my efforts will be to have action deferred by the Council until the people approve or disapprove the ordinance at the polls.

At the Council session in the evening of the same day, the 3d, Alderman Dever called up his ordinance for the submission at the Fall election, under the mandatory referendum clause of the Mueller law, of a proposition that the city proceed to operate street

railways. The ordinance was voted down by 36 to 31, a majority of only 5.

Meanwhile the emergent petition for the public policy referendum of next Spring is still receiving signatures, the intention being to continue circulating it until November 15, the date fixed by the Mayor as the limit within which the legal number of signatures must be secured to induce him to oppose the immediate adoption of the pending ordinance. There are several reasons for this. For one thing the committee wishes to make the petition as large as possible. For another, some signatures may be duplicated, and some of the signers may not register. Moreover, the exact number legally required (25 per cent. of the registry) cannot be known until the coming registration of voters is completed. It is intended, therefore, to make the signatures so numerous that the legal number will appear upon the petition in any event. The number last reported was 115,000.

Since the presentation of this petition to the Mayor and the close vote in the Council on the Dever ordinance, a different disposition regarding the compromise ordinance is observable. The ordinance is now conceded to be dead; and while it is still contended that a compromise is necessary, if one is possible, there are indications of official willingness to proceed at once to establish a municipal ownership traction system with certain indisputably expired and expiring grants as the nucleus.

The political events of the week are not notable in the sensational sense, but some of them are of national interest. One of these is the nomination on the 29th of Gov. Garvin for a third term as governor of Rhode Island, a nomination for which he was not a candidate. Another is the unanimous renomination on the 3d of Congressman Robert Baker as representative in Congress from the 6th district of New York. Congressman William Sulzer of the 10th district of New York, and Congressman William Randolph Hearst of the 11th were renominated on the 3d, and on the same day ex-Senator Charles A. Towne

was nominated for the 14th. In northern New Jersey the Democrats nominated on the 3d, for representative in Congress from the 5th New Jersey district, James E. Martine, a democratic Democrat of State reputation

Sulzer, Hearst and Towne are certain of election, their districts being Democratic and they having been nominated by the Democratic organization. Garvin runs in a Republican State against great odds. But his record in the governor's chair (pp. 376, 395) has given him great personal popularity, and as he stands for opposition to an objectionable local oligarchy of wealth he may score another victory. Mr. Martine runs against the present incumbent, Congressman Fowler, in a gerrymandered district of three New Jersey counties, two of which are strongly Republican and pluto-Democratic. Baker's district, Brooklyn, was gerrymandered for a safe Republican district, but Baker carried it two years ago (vol. v, p. 483) by a small majority, by means of campaign methods which he declares his intention of repeating this year. He says:

I shall conduct a cart tail campaign, as I did two years ago. I believe that this kind of a campaign had a great deal to do with my election. I suppose I talked to 10,000 persons, of whom 5,000 at least were different individuals. The audiences that are attracted to halls are 90 per cent. of your own party faith. The cart tail campaign attracts all sorts and conditions of men; and if you stand for a principle and fearlessly proclaim it, you get people to thinking. Some may call you an "anarchist," but others will say, "Well, I guess Baker's right." You've got to hit strongly from the shoulder, without any equivocations or qualifications, if you want to win.

Baker's record in Congress (vol. vi, pp. 690, 802, 818; vol. vii, pp. 34, 93, 131, 267) will strengthen him with radical democrats of all parties, but it may also draw the fire of the plutocratic voters and the "machine."

Bryan (pp. 322, 341) began a week's speaking campaign in Nebraska on the 3d in behalf of the Democratic national ticket and the State fusion ticket. It is reported that he has been requested by the national committee to campaign in Indiana and Illinois.