

held on the 19th. Both men and women attended. Miss Squire, who was among those present, was welcomed with enthusiasm and delivered an address on "taxation without representation." Mrs. Fitts-Jones presided, Mrs. Jeanette Cole was secretary, and among the speakers was Margaret A. Haley. The organization committee, consisting of Mrs. Fitts-Jones, Mrs. Rastall, Miss Bradley, Miss Squire and Miss Haley, reported at a subsequent meeting on the 26th, when the principal speakers, in addition to those already named, were Mrs. Thomas Rhodus, Mrs. Bevans, Mrs. McGovern and Dr. Anna M. Blount. A constitution was adopted and steps were taken for defending Miss Squire in the proceedings against her for collection of the tax she refuses to pay.

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Philadelphia Street Car Strike.

The sensational newspaper reports of rioting by street car strikers in Philadelphia (p. 181) are not borne out by our advices from Philadelphia. Such rioting as there has been seems to have come from others than strikers, and in addition it has been very much exaggerated in the news reports. Inexcusable brutality by policemen and autocratic behavior of judges to juries in cases that have come to trial are complained of with at least a show of justice. The president of the Central Labor Union, John J. Murphy, was arrested on the 25th on the same charge upon which C. O. Pratt was arrested a few days before—"inciting to riot." The criminal words attributed to him—made, as alleged, upon announcement that at a special meeting of the board of directors of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company a request for arbitration submitted by a committee of prominent clergymen had been declined, were: "A general strike should be called immediately. I think it is inevitable. There are men in the north-east who can shoot as straight as any trooper who ever drew a breath."

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At a secret meeting of the Central Labor Union on the 27th, over 600 delegates representing 125,000 organized workers being present, a general strike was ordered to begin on the 5th. Following are the resolutions:

Whereas, Since the union carmen have been locked out the company officials have conspired with certain interests in the city hall and have clubbed, coerced and arrested men who were innocent of any crime whatsoever; have denied the citizens of this city their God-given and constitutional rights, preventing the car men from operating hurdy-gurdies that they might secure sustenance for their wives and children; have also denied the team drivers the right to stand on the the streets so that the people might avall themselves of those transportation facilities if they did not desire to encourage the company's action by riding on its cars; and the State police have been brought into this city without any

justification whatsoever, but ostensibly for the purpose of preserving order; and whereas, a united and determined public resents such cowardly action and unjust interference and violation of agreement; therefore, be it resolved, that we, the representatives of labor in extraordinary convention assembled, do hereby determine that a general strike shall take place in protest against the highhanded action and arbitrary use of administrative powers, and that we pledge ourselves not to return to work until all rights have been recognized and complied with.

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The traction company refuses to arbitrate, although an increasing number of religious and civic bodies are petitioning them to do so.

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Cleveland Traction Case.

The traction receivership of Cleveland (vol. xi, p. 802) came to an end on the 28th, at midnight; and after the last night car had finished its trip, the entire traction property of Cleveland was turned over, pursuant to the recent traction ordinance (vol. xii, p. 1231; vol. xiii, p. 181), to the Cleveland Railway Company. At this time, the entire system was running under the 3-cent fare rate which ex-Mayor Johnson had fought for. As a condition of assuming possession, the company agrees, in accordance with the demands of Mr. Johnson allowed by Judge Tayler as arbitrator, to pay all back dividends to the guaranteed investors in the old low fare companies. These payments are to begin immediately. At the latest reports the value of the stock on the exchange in Cleveland was 95 cents on the dollar. Gerhard M. Dahl has been appointed by the new Mayor and confirmed by the new Council as Street Railroad Commissioner.

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The first fund for paying back dividends and other outstanding obligations has been paid to C. W. Stage and Henry Davies as secretary of the Municipal (or "holding") Company and the Cleveland Railway Company respectively—\$350,000 each. The sum turned over to Mr. Stage, as representative of the Municipal, will be used to pay the 7½ per cent dividend due old Forest City and Municipal stockholders; to make good any losses suffered by stockholders who purchased under the Municipal guarantee; to pay claims against the Municipal which Referee Belford refused to allow as preferred claims, and to pay certain guarantees for paving that grew out of the consent war on Fulton road, N. W., several years ago. The sum allowed the Cleveland Railway Co. will be used to pay the 11½ per cent dividend to old Cleveland Electric stockholders; back dividends to Forest City stockholders who failed to convert their stock into Cleveland Railway stock when the Municipal took control and therefore did

not receive dividends on July 1 and Oct. 1, 1908, and to pay salaries and expenses of officers and experts employed by the railway company since the receivership has been in effect.

NEWS NOTES

—The National Consumers' League held its annual meeting in Milwaukee on March 1 and 2.

—August Bebel's seventieth birthday was celebrated by Socialists the world over on the 22nd. Bebel is the veteran leader of the Social Democratic party of Germany, which he has represented in the Reichstag for nearly 40 years.

—The meeting of the Chicago Single Tax Club on the 4th, at the Schiller Bldg., will be devoted to a symposium for the open discussion of "Which are the most Effective Methods to explain the Civic and the Moral Features of the Single Tax?"

—The commission plan of municipal government (p. 182) was adopted in South Dakota (p. 134) on the 24th, in the towns of Pierre, Dell Rapids, and Mitchell, the majorities for it being 215 in Pierre, overwhelming in Dell Rapids, and 336 in Mitchell.

—Snowslides in the mining district of northern Idaho on the 27th and 28th nearly wiped out the two little towns of Mace and Burke, with losses of nineteen lives, and with injuries to some of the survivors. Two lives were also lost from the same cause at Dorsey.

—The Sanitary District, a public service branch of the government in Illinois with headquarters at Chicago and controlling the drainage canal power, offers to supply electric lighting for the new City Hall of Chicago at 1 cent per kilowatt hour in competition with the Commonwealth-Edison Company, which bids 3 cents.

—Wireless telegraphy has made possible the publication daily of the world's news on board vessels at sea. The first publication to serve ocean travelers completely in this respect is the "Cunard Daily Bulletin" of the steamship Lusitania, which has a daily circulation of 2,500, has 32 pages 10 inches by 6, goes to press at 1 a. m., sells for 5 cents a copy, and is ready for delivery every morning at the breakfast table.

—The greatest pageant ever produced in England is being arranged for a "Festival of Empire," to be held at the Crystal Palace some time during the coming summer. The history of Britain from prehistoric times, and the life of the British colonies in different parts of the world, are to be represented. Fifteen thousand citizens of London, and another thousand or more from the colonies, all dressed in the costumes of the different periods, will take part.

—The finding of valuable diamonds in Arkansas (vol. ix, p. 610; vol. x, p. 443) has led to preparations for establishing elaborate and costly machinery for the opening up of a vein of diamond-bearing rock which lies in the southwestern corner of the State, near Murfreesboro. The press dispatches thus describe the formation: "Within an area of less than 100 acres there exists one of those rare freaks of geological formation which produces the dia-

mond. It is not a long, extending vein, like deposits of gold or silver or coal, but a small neck or pipe of rock, forced up by volcanic action from a great depth. Within the last three years there have been found on the surface of this region 700 diamonds, varying in size from mere chips to six and one-half carats, the average being about one carat."

—A strike of office elevator men in Chicago was averted on the 1st through the intervention of John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, which resulted in a settlement on the basis of higher wages. The scale adopted was as follows:

	Per Month.
First six months of service.....	\$55.00
Second six months of service.....	57.50
Third six months of service.....	60.00
Next twelve months.....	62.50
After two and a half years.....	65.00

PRESS OPINIONS

What Women Can Do.

Emporia (Kan.) Weekly Gazette (Ind. Rep.), February 10.—The adoption of the ordinance providing for the city disposal of garbage was passed, because the women of Emporia demanded it. The male voters of this town don't care how dirty things are around them. But women have pride. Moreover, they have votes. And pride plus votes for women, cleans up a town. No other one factor does so much toward the progressive decent government that characterizes our Kansas towns as municipal suffrage for women. Kansas is a State without a saloon, with a dozen cities going under commission government, with municipal ownership of light and water, and largely because the women of Kansas towns vote. Women can do much by persuasion. But how they can use the big stick when they have it!

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National Monopolies are Government Functions.

The Sacramento (Cal.) Bee (Dem.), February 18.—The sale of the Postal Telegraph Company's interests in the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, which now controls both the Bell telephone lines and the Western Union Telegraph system, confirms the recent declaration of Clarence Mackay that he would not be a party to the merger. This consolidation leaves the Postal the only competitor of the new trust in the telegraph service. The competition is active, but for a long time past it has been on the basis of uniform rates. The only question for patrons is which company gives the better and more reliable service. In the United States the telegraph should be a branch of the postal service, as in European countries and Australasia, conducted not for profit but for the convenience of the public. On this basis telegraph charges could be greatly reduced and yet afford a net revenue to the Government, as in other lands, where the tolls are far less than Americans are obliged to pay. The same is true of the telephone service, which, like the telegraph, is a natural monopoly and so properly a government function. No natural monopoly should be turned over to a