

the instance of some of our weak-kneed leaders, the Interstate Commerce Commission has recently sought to make a pitiful apology for this disgrace. Our right to work is questioned not only by some who are attempting to fight the great battles of labor, but even by those very people who declare us fit for nothing else. We are glibly told to deserve before we complain; yet those of us who do deserve are proscribed along with the least, by men who know that ability and desert come oftenest through freedom and power.

Turning to the labor question in its relation to the Negro-American, the address makes this impressive appeal:

Do men forget that the wages of white Americans cannot permanently rise far above the wages of black Americans? And do they not know that the half-drunken Senator who can today slap a black laborer's face may tomorrow kick white laborers down stairs? And yet who are they that too often lead the fight against us? Poor and ignorant whites, spurred on by the richer and more intelligent who hide behind the mob and fatten on its deeds. Small wonder that Negro disfranchisement is practically coincident with those regions where white ignorance, political fraud and murder are greatest. That black men are inherently inferior to white men is a widespread lie which science flatly contradicts, and the attempt to submerge the colored races is one with world-old efforts of the wily to exploit the weak. We must therefore make common cause with the oppressed and down-trodden of all races and peoples; with out kindred of South Africa and the West Indies, with our fellows in Mexico, India and Russia, and with the cause of the working-classes everywhere. On us rests to no little degree the burden of the cause of Individual Freedom, Human Brotherhood, and Universal Peace in a day when America is forgetting her promise and destiny. Let us work on and never despair. Though pigmy voices are loudly praising ill-gotten wealth, big guns, and human degradation, they but represent back eddies in the tide of Time. The causes of God cannot be lost.

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#### Cleveland Traction Question.

Later reports from Cleveland indicate that the agreement outlined last week (p. 847) was not concluded. The company objects to adding Newton D. Baker, the city solicitor, to the committee for drafting safeguard clauses, and the city refuses to turn the matter over to a committee in whose deliberations it has no voice. The situation as described editorially by the Plain Dealer of the 1st is as follows:

To solve the difficulty of making the public safeguards of the Tayler plan safe without at the same time rendering the ordinance too liable to complete invalidation, both sides agreed to the appointment of an advisory commission of lawyers. The traction company expressed its willingness to submit the problem to Judge Tayler, Judge Lawrence and S. H. Tolles, while the city demanded the addition of City Solicitor Newton D. Baker. Although the city expressly stated that the company need not bind itself to abide by the

findings of this commission, the traction representatives have remained obdurate in their opposition to placing Mr. Baker on the commission, and have actually created out of this a "point of difference." Such action is silly and reprehensible. . . . Five points of difference are at present under discussion. Two of these, referring to East Cleveland and the Interurbans, are now in process of settlement with practically no disagreement between city and company. Two others, those of the makeup of the advisory commission on validation and of the "disinterestedness" of arbitrators, are mere quibbles on the part of the traction company and should be eliminated at once. The fifth, that of time limit for nominating a purchaser, has already been subject for compromise. Though the Plain Dealer believes that the company's demand on this is not unjust, it feels that a slight concession might well be made to meet the large concession which has been offered by the city.

The preliminary differences, those that must be eliminated before proceeding to valuation and the fixing of the maximum rate of fare, are really so slight or so technical that they should and could be disposed of at once.

The question of maximum rate of fare, to be fixed after valuation by Judge Tayler, remains the threatening portent. But even this should be no block to immediate peace, if immediate peace is desired by both sides.

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Incomplete returns from the Municipal Primary election held on the 7th indicated that Tom L. Johnson had for the fifth consecutive time been nominated for Mayor by the Democrats, but that his councilmanic supporters were defeated.

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## NEWS NOTES

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— The International Esperanto congress (vol. xi, p. 494) opened at Barcelona, Spain, on the 6th, the sessions to continue until the 10th.

— Reports from the little war being waged by Spain in Morocco, in the interests of Spanish and French mining enterprises (p. 825), indicate an improved situation for the Spaniards.

— Lloyd Garrison Wheeler, the first Negro to be admitted to the Illinois bar, died at Tuskegee on the 28th at the age of 60 years. From 1903 until his death he was business agent of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

— An agreement between China and Japan concerning Manchurian issues was signed at Peking on the 4th (vol. x, pp. 1188, 1213). The subjects of dispute relate chiefly to exploitation rights in building railroads and opening mines.

— The National Allied Tobacco Trades Association, composed of manufacturers, was formed at Chicago on the 2d for the purpose of opposing legislation inimical to the tobacco industry and to carry on a campaign of education for its protection.

— Reports of another flood come from northeastern Mexico (p. 849). The town of Tulap in Nuevo Leon was reported to have been wholly swept away on the