

no military! We want bread!" The soldiers responded with volleys of bullets and with free use of their bayonets. Unofficial reports give six persons killed and above two hundred severely injured. By the evening of the 18th order had been restored by the military and one district had been put under martial law. The leaders of the Social Democrats, in a manifesto, declared that the rioters were an undisciplined element of the city, and exhorted the workmen to abstain from further demonstration and to resume their work. The agitation is said to be the culmination of months of bitter discontent over the steady increase in the cost, not only of food, but of lodging, clothing and all the necessaries of life. That the movement has revolutionary possibilities was indicated by the fact that the mobs cheered the cry of "Revolution!" and shouted their applause for the overthrow of monarchy in Portugal.

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#### Conference of State Governors.

Beginning with no very pronounced purpose only two or three years ago, the annual Conference of Governors appears to have developed into a highly significant voluntary organization of the States in resistance to concentration of national power. An impetus has been given it by the intrusion of Federal judicial authority into the domain of State authority, a threatening instance being the recent decision of Judge Sanborn to the effect that State authority cannot regulate railway rates within a State on inter-State railways. This decision would have the effect of freeing inter-State traffic from all regulation—from State regulation because the line is *inter-State*, and from national regulation because the rates are *intra-State*. This subject caused the most pronounced and significant action of the Conference of Governors at their meeting at Spring Lake, N. J., of which the opening session was reported in *The Public* last week. [See vol. xiii, p. 1163; and current volume, page 955.]

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The proceedings on the 11th developed a controversy of general interest between Governor Wilson of New Jersey and Governor O'Neal of Alabama over the Initiative and Referendum. Speaking on the subject of strengthening the power of Governors in their respective States, Governor O'Neal advocated gubernatorial authority to remove county and municipal officers, whether appointive or elective, as a preventive of lynching. But he bitterly opposed the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, referring to them as "a movement which seems to be gathering strength in certain sections of the country" and which "tends to weaken rather than strengthen executive authority," a Governor having "no power to veto or amend a law initiated by the people and adopted

by referendum" but the only remedy being in the courts "if the law is in violation of the Constitution, invades vested rights, or destroys individual liberty," and "where the system of recall of judges prevails (overthrowing as it does the independence of the judiciary) the courts would degenerate into tribunals organized chiefly to register popular judgment on all legal questions." Replying to Governor O'Neal Governor Wilson said in substance, with reference to the Initiative and Referendum, that—

it is necessary that we carry the analysis a little further than it has been carried. An important thing is, the source of the law. Some of the laws that we have are bad laws and they are bad for the reason that there is a suspicion as to their source. There is nothing inconsistent between the strengthening of the powers of the Executive and the direct power of the people. There is no distrust of the fundamental principles of democracy. We are all democrats if we use a small 'd'. We are merely at odds as to the best method of giving expression with reference to that great public opinion upon which all depends. I have known of instances of the caprice of the mob, but I have never known of any instance where the vote of the population was spoken of as a caprice.

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The subject of woman suffrage was brought before the Conference on the 11th by Governor Carey of Wyoming, who said that he came from a woman-suffrage State, and from his observation and experience there he wished to see every State in the Union adopt woman suffrage. In allusion to one of the engrossing subjects of the conference, the conflict of marriage and divorce laws in the several States, he argued that the women of the country should have a voice in deciding how to deal with this question and predicted that woman suffrage would lead to a remedy for the divorce evil. Following Governor Carey's speech, Governor Shafroth of Colorado offered and the Conference adopted a motion for a session to be addressed by woman suffrage representatives. Accordingly on the 14th Mrs. Abram Van Winkle, Mrs. J. W. Brannon and the Rev. Dr. Anna Shaw addressed the Conference.

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Governors Aldrich of Nebraska and Hadley of Missouri took the lead on the 14th in the movement which resulted in pronounced action with reference to Federal invasion of State authority through the Federal judiciary. They denounced Judge Sanborn's decision as judicial tyranny, and upon their motion a committee of Governors was appointed to appear before the Supreme Court of the United States, as counsel in one of the State cases pending there, with a protest against interference in State affairs by inferior Federal judges. Governor Harmon of Ohio is chairman of this committee, and Governors Aldrich and Hadley are the other members.