

per cent of the voters; for initiative and referendum by 15 per cent of the voters, and for submission of all bond issues and franchise grants to popular vote. Other cities in Colorado, notably Grand Junction (p. 373), are proceeding under the same law upon the authority of which this Colorado Springs charter has been adopted.

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Conference on the Status of the Negro.

For the purpose of considering the political and economic status of the Negro in the United States, a national conference will be held at New York city on May 31st and June 1st. One meeting, to which the general public is to be admitted, will be held in Cooper Union at 8 o'clock in the evening of the 31st. Judge Wendell P. Stafford of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia will preside at this meeting, and the speakers will include Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Clarence S. Darrow, John Spencer Bassett, J. Milton Waldron and W. E. B. Du Bois. All other meetings of the conference will be held in the hall of the Charity Organization Society, 105 E. 22d street; and, with the exception of the first, beginning at 10 o'clock in the morning, they will be held behind closed doors. The first will be devoted to papers and discussions on race prejudice viewed from a scientific standpoint, by persons specially qualified—Professor Livingston Farrand, Professor Burt G. Wilder, Professor John Dewey, and others. The closed meetings and the discussions thereat are to be as follows: May 31st (afternoon), the civil and political status of the Negro; June 1 (morning), the industrial and educational status of the Negro; June 1 (afternoon), general discussion and business; June 1 (evening), the Negro and the nation. Among the speakers for these subjects are William Lloyd Garrison, Edwin D. Meade, Bishop Walters, Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley, Leslie Pinckney Hill, Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett, Wm. A. Sinclair, Dr. Wm. Buckley, Joseph C. Manning and Ray Stannard Baker. The call for the conference goes out under the signature of William English Walling, as secretary, 21 W. 38th street, New York, and with the endorsement of 57 vice presidents, from New York, Massachusetts, Illinois, District of Columbia, Connecticut, Vermont, Georgia, Ohio, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. Among the vice presidents are William Dean Howells, Thomas C. Hall, Charles E. Russell, Anna Garlin Spencer, Oswald G. Villard and Stephen S. Wise of New York city; Moorfield Storey, Samuel Bowles, Lincoln Steffens, Lewis J. Johnson and Charles Zueblin of Boston; Graham Taylor, Jane Adams, Emil G. Hirsch, Mary E. McDowell, Louis F. Post and Judge Edward Osgood Brown of Chicago; Archibald H. Grimke and Kelly Miller of Washington; Irving Fisher of Yale University,

and John R. Commons of the Wisconsin University.

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The Liberian Commission.

The American Liberian Commission (p. 395) arrived at Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, on board the cruiser Chester, on the 12th. The commissioners received a warm welcome, and were accorded unusual honors. The legislature was summoned to convene on the 17th in special session to aid the commission in its labors.

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Native Franchise in South Africa.

The proposed draft constitution for a federated South Africa (p. 275) having, as already reported (p. 253), almost entirely excluded the Native population from the franchise, a South African Native Convention assembled at Bloemfontein, March 24, 25 and 26, to discuss the clauses of the draft constitution which related to Natives and Colored people. The convention was composed of delegates from the Cape Colony, Natal, Transvaal, Orange River Colony, and Bechuana Land. Among the "decisions" of the convention, according to the report in Izwi Labantu, were the following:

1. This Convention recognizes the principle of Union amongst all His Majesty's subjects in the South African colonies to be essential, necessary, and inevitable, the ultimate object of which seeks to promote the future progress and welfare of all.

2. The Imperial Government, of which we are now all loyal citizens interested in, and sharing alike its responsibilities, is bound by both fundamental and specific obligations towards the Natives and Colored races of South Africa to extend to them the same measure of equitable justice and consideration as is extended to those of European descent under the law. It has been well said that the King and the Empire owe good and just government to every class of their subjects, but no such good or just government is possible, where one class is left at the mercy of another class by being absolutely deprived of the right of equal representation, which is a fundamental obligation.

3. This Convention places on record its strong and emphatic protest against the admission of a "color bar" in the Union Constitution as being a real vital basic wrong and injustice, and respectfully pleads that a clause be inserted in the "Charter" providing that all persons within the Union shall be entitled to full and equal rights and privileges, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all citizens without distinction of class, color or creed. The franchise has been enjoyed for more than 50 years by the Native and Colored races of the Cape Colony, but is not extended to the Native and Colored races of Orange River Colony, the Transvaal and the Colony of Natal, and this Convention seriously deprecates the absence, in the said Draft Act, of the principle of equal rights for all the races in the South African Colonies; a principle which was sus-