

and mistakes, national and local. The Republican politicians are generally considered to be the lackeys of the corporations, but in this State at least the interests buy the Democratic politicians more cheaply. Governor Hughes, in his efforts to bring about some reform, is supported by a majority of the Republican legislators, but opposed by practically all the Democratic. . . . We progressive Democrats are not here representing any interests except fundamental democracy, or any men except the whole people. Each one of us has come at his own expense and has no axes to grind. It would hurt the influence which we hope to exert if we advocate the nomination of any man for governor. As I conceive it, our function is to declare what we believe to be Jeffersonian principles and measures in the light of modern conditions, and to picture the kind of man that would best represent such principles and measures, but not to suggest any name or means. What is the best machinery for you to employ is for you to determine—whether the selection of a committee to confer with the State convention, or the formation of a permanent body, or both.

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The conference chose A. J. Elias of Buffalo for permanent chairman, and perfected a permanent organization under the name of "Progressive Democracy," with headquarters at 4 Monroe street, Albany, and Frederick Cyrus Leubuscher, Leonard Tuttle and William Lustgarten, as chairman, organizer and secretary, respectively. A committee of 15 was appointed to confer with all Democratic bodies of the State for the purpose of securing the adoption of the platform and the nomination of fit candidates. The following address of the conference to the people embodies the platform:

The Democratic organization in New York State does not represent the Democratic voters. Progressive Democrats will vote only for candidates who embody real democracy; but progressive Democrats have no representation inside the organization. Conservative Democrats have formed a Democratic League which has shown its ignorance and contempt of the people's wishes by presenting to the legislature a fraudulent primary reform bill which would leave the political control in the hands of the bosses and of the interests they represent. A combination of the Democratic machine and the Democratic League will not voluntarily write a platform and nominate a ticket that progressive democrats can support. What then shall the majority of Democrats do? They cannot support Hearst, because he is a Republican on the issues of protection, ship subsidies and imperialism. The secret of Hearst's power is that he stands for some progressive reforms that the people desire. These reforms are democratic, and the Democratic ticket and the Democratic platform must embody them. Then progressive Democrats will support their party.

We know that we voice the real Democratic sentiment when we demand: (1) Direct nominations, applicable throughout the State to all elective offices so as to abolish nominating conventions; (2) the initiative, referendum and recall—the people's rule; (3) home rule for municipalities and counties,

including power to own and operate public utilities if voted for by the people; (4) home rule for cities and counties in taxation, so that each city and county shall have complete jurisdiction over the method of raising its own local revenue; (5) the adoption of the Constitutional amendment giving the Federal government power to impose an income tax; (6) the development of the water power, forests and other natural resources of the State under public ownership and control; (7) pending the acquisition of power to elect U. S. Senators by direct votes the nomination by the Democratic State convention this year of a candidate for United States Senator for whom Democratic legislators shall be pledged to vote; (8) candidates for Congress who oppose the tariff as a fraud and a sham, and who will work for the largest possible extension of the free list; re-nominations to be refused to the "Cannon" Democrats from New York.

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Convention of the National Educational Association.

The 48th annual convention of the National Educational Association (vol. xii, pp. 685, 697), the only important educational organization in the United States, was distinguished by the election of a woman, Ella Flagg Young, as president. This convention met in Boston on the 6th. A strong movement of women teachers (supported by men, and including the State Superintendent of Schools of Illinois), in favor of the election of Mrs. Young, was under way when the committee on nominations assembled. She was proposed for president in the committee, but was defeated 28 to 19 by Z. X. Snyder, principal of the Colorado State Normal School. In the majority report of the committee her name appeared as a candidate for one of the vice-presidencies, but she declined this through R. M. Hitch, a Chicago public school principal. On the floor of the convention Katherine D. Blake of New York presented a minority report (without precedent in the history of the association), naming Mrs. Young for president, and the minority report was adopted by 617 to 376.

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Ella Flagg Young (p. 540), the first woman president of the National Educational Association, also the first woman superintendent of public schools in any large city (vol. xii, pp. 745, 756), and president of the Illinois Teachers' Association (p. 15), stands in the first rank of educators, a place to which she has risen, step by step, from a primary school teacher in the Chicago public schools, in an almost unbroken service of nearly fifty years. The significance of Mrs. Young's election was emphasized by her inaugural speech in which she said:

I am aware that in one year the president may not accomplish great changes, but may be the conservator of all that is good in the educational work done and may see to it that there are no backward steps. There are many things to do now. Chief

among them is the ending of distinctions in memberships between those who can afford to pay the comparatively large active membership fees and those who cannot. This organization never can be a truly democratic association worthy of its name and ideas until all men and women teaching can be in, of, and for the Association in every act of membership. I hope I may do something to advance the democratic spirit of the Association until every teacher in every city, town, and school district may join in helping forward the work.

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Before adjourning the convention adopted the following resolution:

The National Educational Association reaffirms its unalterable opposition to any division of the public school funds among private or sectarian schools, and believes that appropriations from the Federal or State treasuries in support of private educational institutions is in direct contravention of the fundamental principles upon which our system of American public school education has been founded and has prospered.

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The Sagamore Sociological Conference.

The fourth Sagamore Sociological Conference (vol. xii, p. 663) held its sessions at Sagamore Beach, Mass., from June 28 to 30. In the discussion of the liquor problem Mr. Henry Sterling, ex-secretary of the Typographical Union of Boston, quoted Frances E. Willard as saying she had changed her first belief that intemperance is predominantly the cause of poverty, to the faith that poverty is more generally the cause of intemperance. Increased wages and shortened hours of work have again and again been shown to make for greater temperance. If you solve the "unemployed" problem, you will go far to solve the liquor problem. Dr. George Sale, of the United States Commission to Liberia (p. 321), in speaking of the race problem in the South, said that in spite of the laws recently passed, depriving the Negroes of some of their rights, he believed there is a new and truer "reconstruction" now in progress than that which so embittered the South after the war. Signs of this appear in the fact that the strongest utterances against race prejudice and in favor of the Negro during the last few years have come from Southerners, in the new spirit showing itself in Southern universities, and in the development of agricultural interests among Negroes. The children of the workers and working children were presented by John Spargo and Florence Kelley. Dr. Josiah Strong of New York laid emphasis on the economic causes of nearly all race hatreds. Mr. Henry Sterling declared his belief that poverty is the nexus of all the problems so far treated by this conference—drink, Negro, and child problems; as long as we permit poverty to continue, we may pull here and there individuals out, but the slums will still seethe. Professor C. P. Fagnani, of Union Theological seminary, also

laid emphasis on poverty as the underlying support of our problems. The platform of the Conference declared imperative to all who really desire the coming of God's kingdom on earth, the establishment of social justice, and the realization of brotherhood., the consideration of such problems as:

- The fair distribution of the products of labor.
- The reduction of the hours of labor.
- The establishment of minimum wage-boards.
- Hygienic conditions of living.
- The abolition of the exploitation of child-labor.
- The problem of unemployment.
- Working men's compensation for injury to life and health in industry.
- Special attention to the education of immigrants.
- One day's rest in seven for all workers.
- Marriage and divorce laws.
- Abolition of the saloon evil.
- A constructive programme for recreation.
- Compulsory insurance against illness, unemployment, old age, and death.
- Public ownership of public utilities.
- The abolition of privilege and monopoly.
- Income and inheritance taxes.
- The abolition, by taxation, of the monopoly in land.
- Promotion of all forms of association for mutual help and social betterment.
- The bringing together, through common interests, of people of different races and religions.
- The perfecting of our democracy through (a) direct legislation and the referendum and recall; (b) the maintenance of free press, speech, and assemblage; (c) the conservation of natural and social resources; (d) the enfranchisement of women.
- World organization for peace and justice between nations.

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Land Values Taxation in Wales.

The British United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values has extended its work into Wales, where, until now, it has not been represented. On the 18th of June an influential committee, says the South Wales Daily News of the 23d, editorially, "representative of leading public men in Wales and Monmouthshire was formed to conduct a campaign in the Principality for the taxation of land values," to which it adds:

It may be recalled that Alderman Raffan, M. P., the president, in his address at the inauguratory meeting on Saturday, pointed out that they could not rest satisfied until local authorities were able themselves to rate land values and mining royalties for local purposes, and that there was a deep and real feeling about the land question in Wales. . . . The first meeting in connection with the movement was held last night at Abergwynfi, where the leading speaker was Mr. Edward McHugh, the well-known authority on this great question. It was evident from the meeting that the campaign will be as successful as the sanguine pioneers anticipate; it is at least certain that the question affects Wales in a peculiar sense, and nowhere can more striking