

the 6th the Illinois legislature killed the Chicago charter convention bill (p. 73), but enacted an amendment to the old "Cities and Villages" act, applying it only to Chicago, which, if adopted next Fall on referendum, will in slight degree alter the city government. Among other things the Mayor's term will be extended from two years to four.

Another bill, also subject to referendum, relates to gas and electricity in Chicago (p. 73). It authorizes the City of Chicago to sell surplus electricity from its municipal lighting plants for heat, light and power, and empowers the city to prescribe by ordinance maximum rates for the supply of gas or electricity for power, heat or light, furnished by any individual company or corporation to the city and the inhabitants thereof, such charge to be just and reasonable. Prices may be fixed for a period not exceeding five years, and in case they are unjust and unreasonable they may be reviewed by the Circuit Court of Cook County. The bill contains a proviso that the powers now possessed by the city to own, construct or acquire electric lighting plants are not enlarged, and that no electrical current may be sold if it is needed for municipal purposes.

Another meeting in Cleveland (p. 73) between the city authorities and the local traction company took place on the 3d. Mr. Andrews, the president of the company, refused to make any proposition for renewal of franchises. Regarding Mayor Johnson's previous suggestion for a civic company to lease the rights of the stock company (p. 57), Mr. Andrews stated that his company was not anxious to enter into such a plan, for they wished to continue operating the property, but he suggested 5 per cent. on the par value of the stock as fair terms. Mayor Johnson declared these terms outrageously high and would not consider the suggestion. Although there was much and varied discussion, no conclusion was reached.

As a result of the popular agitation in Philadelphia against extending the lease of the gas works

(p. 72), the City Council, on the 4th, adopted a resolution to advertise for bids. Before the adoption of this resolution, a message from Mayor Weaver was read, in which he vigorously opposed the lease to the United Gas Improvement Company and advised that the city take back the gas works and operate them after 1907, when the present lease expires. To do this the city would be compelled to pay the gas company nearly \$11,000,000 for improvements it has made. No action was taken upon the message. Denials of the charges of corruption made by Robert Dornan (p. 73), were published on the 4th by several of the persons implicated.

The veto by Mayor McClellan of New York, of the Elsberg bill (p. 73) was overridden by the legislature on the 4th. This bill is reported to be in the interest of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which has been balked in procuring street franchises from the Board of Aldermen of New York city. Such franchises are first passed upon by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment (composed of the Mayor, Comptroller, President of Board of Aldermen and the presidents of the five boroughs), and are finally acted upon by the Board of Aldermen. It was to deprive this board of final authority and vest in the Board of Estimate and Apportionment all power over the granting of franchises to public service corporations that the Elsberg bill was passed. Under the laws of New York, the Mayor has a veto upon legislation affecting the city. He has exercised this right, on the ground that the Board of Aldermen directly represents the people and that the principle of the bill is therefore bad. The legislature having overridden the Mayor's veto, the bill goes now to the Governor in the usual way.

Corruption in the New York Legislature.

The action of the New York legislature on the Elsberg bill, noted above, is reported from Albany to have been corrupt. For this and other legislative favors the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is said to have spent half a million dollars. According to one of these reports, a special to the

Chicago Record-Herald of the 6th, there was on the day of adjournment, the 5th—

such a riot of corruption as seldom has been seen, even in Albany. With several graft bills to promote, the various corporations seeking favors at the expense of people poured out money like water. The use of bribery funds to influence legislation was notorious, and rarely has the lobby been more brazen and shameless. While there were abundant evidences of graft it would be impossible, for obvious reasons, to give the exact amount of these corruption funds, but it is possible to make some estimates in round numbers. There were a dozen "juicy things," the most fascinating of which was the sum sent by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, estimated at \$500,000, to put through bills knocking out the board of aldermen and procuring other favors. The gas company probably will have to charge up to profit and loss for "the legislative account" another half million. The Metropolitan and Interborough interests may find themselves \$250,000 out as a result of their legislative ventures. The combined insurance interests probably spent half a million dollars at a conservative estimate. Railroads, in addition to the Pennsylvania, including the New York Central, the Lehigh, the Erie, the Lackawanna and the New Haven, probably did not get away without contributing between them \$250,000. The telephone company was mulcted to the extent of \$150,000. Miscellaneous interests probably will figure up their contributions of a quarter of a million more. Of this enormous sum at least 75 per cent. was disbursed in the nature of contributions to the parties direct, the other 25 per cent going to the men in a position to be of assistance in promoting desirable legislation or preventing the passage of bills not wanted. For boldness of operation and audacity of execution there has been nothing approaching it in Albany in many years. Without a single Boss possessed of anything like the proper authority, with a Governor who refuses to dip his hands into the filth of some of the legislative undertakings, with the corporations riding rough-shod over competitors and presumptuous obstructionists alike, and with each of the half dozen bosses digging into every "dough bag" that offers field for investigation and pre-emption, it was only publicity that acted as a restrainer in any sense. The combination with the most money to distribute through high-priced agents was known as the Rockefeller crowd, though the Rockefellers personally may not have been cognizant of what was going on. This party is behind the gas and electrical trusts, which were directly interested in the most important bills before the legislature. It

stood ready to kill the gas bills with one hand and pat the Niagara grab with the other. Fighting the Rockefeller interests, and next to it in moneyed strength, was a combine tagged with the name of Morgan, because it controlled the power plants already doing business at Niagara Falls. This combination was represented by a long string of agents ranging from the high-classed attorney to the press agent and lobbyist in ordinary. The aim of this coterie was to kill the omnibus power grab, bearing the name of the grab trio, Cassidy, Leggett and L'Homme-dieu. The big railroad companies of the metropolis had a score of representatives here, including the Interborough, the Belmont, the Metropolitan and the Westchester roads. The steam railroads which maintained high-class lobbies were the New York Central, the Lehigh, the Erie and the Pennsylvania.

In the British Parliament.

The legislative news of value from across the ocean relates to British government in Ireland. In Parliament on the 9th Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, the Liberal leader, brought to vote a resolution equivalent to a vote of censure of the Ministry for its recent policy in Ireland. He argued that the Ministry had attempted a policy of impartial Irish administration under dictation from a small party of Irish unionists. He concluded with remarking that as to the future Irish policy, mutterings of coercion were heard; and that if coercion were attempted Englishmen would learn that the real separationists are the unionists, who first cajole Ireland and then abandon her. The resolution was defeated by 315 to 252.

Russian Revolution.

A second congress of Russian zemstvos opened at Moscow on the 5th. The first was held at St. Petersburg (vol. vii, p. 552) in November. The second, like the first, is obliged to meet in secret. All the zemstvos (or provincial legislatures) of Russia are represented, and 132 delegates are in attendance. The project for discussion contemplated a national legislature of two houses elected on the American plan—the lower house by direct popular vote and the upper by indirect popular vote, through local zemstvos, universal manhood suffrage being the basis of representation. This plan was adopted on the 8th.

A government order was served on the newspapers of St. Petersburg on the 6th forbidding further mention of the congress; and on the same day the local authorities of St. Petersburg broke up a meeting there of a congress of engineers and ordered the delegates out of the city.

NEWS NOTES

—The Illinois legislature passed a primary election law before adjourning on the 6th.

—Count Cassini, Russian ambassador to the United States since 1898, has been recalled by the Russian government.

—"The Democratic Majority Rule League," with M. F. Dunlap, of Jacksonville, Ill., as president, was organized at Chicago on the 7th.

—Responding to a memorial from Wu Ting-fang, formerly Chinese minister to the United States, China has abolished whipping as a punishment for crime.

—President Roosevelt returned from his vacation (p. 24) on the 8th. He was banquetted in Denver that evening and by the Iroquois club (Democratic) in Chicago on the 10th.

—John C. Fetzer resigned on the 5th as a receiver of the Union Traction company, of Chicago, under appointment of Judge Grosscup, in place of R. R. Govin (vol. vi., p. 140).

—In a railroad wreck on the Pennsylvania railway at South Harrisburg, Pa., just after midnight of the 10th, nearly everybody on board, about 170, was killed or injured. The killed are 50. A freight train, including two cars with dynamite, had met with an accident which threw some of the cars over upon the passenger track, but a moment before the arrival of the Cleveland-Cincinnati express, which, with ten coaches, plunged into the freight wreck and exploded the dynamite.

PRESS OPINIONS

THE CHICAGO STRIKE.

Chicago Tribune (Rep.), May 5.—The employers have the theoretical right to carry out their contention to the bitter end. They have the right to insist upon a conflict in the streets, to call out the militia and the regular troops. But this is a consummation devoutly not to be wished. We do not wish any of our fellow citizens, however misguided they may be, to be shot down because they are attempting by force to maintain what they erroneously consider to be their rights.

Chicago Examiner (Dem.), May 10.—The struggle is where it was a week ago. The men are out, the Negroes and other imported men are driving through the streets escorted by policemen and deputy sheriffs. Instead of going out for more business, instead of a peaceful and united effort for progress, we have a prospect for a struggle

until one side or the other is exhausted. Why prolong the fight when a few cool-headed men could adjust it in 24 hours? The differences can be arbitrated. There are no questions that can be solved only by brute force.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican (Ind.), May 5.—The Chicago strike, in all essential features, whether in outline or detail, is an old story, except in one very interesting particular. Perhaps this particular is not so novel as it might be, but it stands out as a phase of the contest more conspicuously than in the past. What we refer to is the systematic way in which the strikers are being fought by the Employers' association, the organization which for the past year or two has been spreading throughout the country and bringing employers together as a cohesive force in opposition to labor unions.

Cincinnati Times-Star (Rep.), May 3.—The municipal ownership campaign in Chicago aroused the anarchistic element of our society and led it to believe that in the new Executive it had a man who would permit it to carry on an aggressive war against those who opposed them, and to maim, to kill, to burn and to pillage those who stood in the way. It opened the Pandora box of all that is vile and vicious in mankind and turned society into a seething, blood-stained ferment. Chicago to-day stands as an object lesson of socialism in action. One sees it as it stands stripped of its philosophy and its rhetoric. It is an object lesson to the nation.

Newark (N. J.) Evening News (Rep.), May 5.—If Mayor Dunne's government cannot enforce the essentials of civic right, it is his immediate duty to call on the State to supplement defect of power. If the State is unwilling or unable, then it is the duty of local authority to call on the Federal Government. That extreme resort has never failed to be promptly successful in suppressing strike violence. But the Chicago Mayor has as yet shown no disposition even to ask for the assistance of the National Guard. He must either remain the cringing politician ready to fawn on mob violence at the expense of the public rights he is sworn to protect, or else at once rise to a situation which has passed far beyond temporizing measures.

The (Chicago) Broad Ax (Negro), May 6.—It is the opinion of the vast majority of the better class of colored people residing in all parts of Chicago, that the managers of the Employers' Teaming company are not justified in bringing hundreds and hundreds of colored men here from the remotest parts of the South—many of them representing the lowest and the toughest element of the race, who are armed to the teeth and are ready to shoot any person on the slightest provocation, to temporarily serve as strike breakers, for such Negro hating concerns as Marshal Field and Company, Mandel Brothers and Montgomery Ward and Company who have no use for Negroes in general except to use them as brutish clubs to beat their white help over the head so that they will bow or knuckle down to them in all things.

The (Indianapolis) Freeman (Negro), May 6.—We believe the colored man makes a serious mistake in permitting himself to be used as a club in the hands of employers. One-half the determination shown in employing colored men in times of violence would be sufficient to secure them employment in times of peace. . . . In addition to the hatred which is always shown toward the strikebreaker, of whatever race, will be added the prejudice against the Negro. This is visited upon the race of which he is a member and the burden that all must bear is thereby increased. That which tends to increase race prejudice cannot bring anything of permanent good to the Negro. Feelings of interest in organized labor do not prompt these sayings. No