

informal confederacy, may control, if they please and when they will, both credit and enterprise. . . . Their very existence gives rise to the suspicion of a "money trust," a concentration of the control of credit which may at any time become infinitely dangerous to free enterprise. If such a concentration and control does not actually exist, it is evident that it can easily be set up and used at will. Laws must be devised which will prevent this, if laws can be worked out by fair and free counsel that will accomplish that result without destroying or seriously embarrassing any sound or legitimate business. . . . What we are seeking is not destruction of any kind, nor the disruption of any sound or honest thing, but merely the rule of right and of the common advantage. . . . The so-called labor question is a question only because we have not yet found the rule of right in adjusting the interests of labor and capital. The welfare, the happiness, the energy and spirit of the men and women who do the daily work in our mines and factories, on our railroads, in our offices and marts of trade, on our farms and on the sea, is of the essence of our national life. There can be nothing wholesome unless their life is wholesome; there can be no contentment unless they are contented. Their physical welfare affects the soundness of the whole nation. We shall never get very far in the settlement of these vital matters so long as we regard everything done for the workingman, by law or by private agreement, as a concession yielded to keep him from agitation and a disturbance of our peace. The sense of universal partnership must come into play if we are to act like statesmen, as those who serve, not a class, but a nation. The working people of America—if they must be distinguished from the minority that constitutes the rest of it—are, of course, the backbone of the nation. No law that safeguards their life, that improves the physical and moral conditions under which they live, that makes their hours of labor rational and tolerable, that gives them freedom to act in their own interest, and that protects them where they cannot protect themselves, can properly be regarded as class legislation or as anything but as a measure taken in the interest of the whole people, whose partnership in right action we are trying to establish and make real and practical. It is in this spirit that we shall act if we are genuine spokesmen of the whole country. . . . The rule of the people is no idle phrase. Those who believe in it (as who does not that has caught the real spirit of America?) believe that there can be no rule of right without it: that right in politics is made up of the interests of everybody, and everybody should take part in the action that is to determine it. . . . We must develop, as well as preserve, our water powers. . . . We must revive our merchant marine, too, and fill the seas again with our own fleets. We must add to our present postoffice service a parcel post as complete as that of any other nation. We must look to the health of our people upon every hand, as well as hearten them with justice and opportunity. This is the constructive work of government. This is the policy that has a vision and a hope and that looks to serve mankind. . . . The question of a merchant marine turns back to the tariff again, to which all roads seem to lead, and to our registry laws, which, if coupled with the tariff, might almost be supposed

to have been intended to take the American flag off the seas. Bounties are not necessary if you will but undo some of the things that have been done. . . . We have set ourselves a great programme, and it will be a great party that carries it out. It must be a party without entangling alliances with any special interest whatever. It must have the spirit and the point of view of the new age.

[See current volume, pages 656, 706.]



Democracy in New York.

At a meeting of the Progressive Democrats of New York at Albany on the 4th, Wilson and Marshall were indorsed for President and Vice-President of the United States and demands upon the Democratic party of the State were made for progressive policies and progressive candidates. "If the right type of candidate is not nominated," say the resolutions, "we shall have no alternative but to support an independent nomination." A committee consisting of Raymond V. Ingersoll, A. J. Elias, Dr. C. M. Culver, Charles J. Miller, F. C. Leubuscher, and J. S. Corbin was appointed to confer with all Democratic and independent organizations, or any other organization opposed to Tammany, as to platform and ticket. It is to report to a meeting of Progressive Democrats at Syracuse on Sept. 30. The platform, formulated by ex-Congressman Robert Baker, demands that—the Declaration of Independence be given full force and effect through: The initiative, referendum, and recall; direct election of United States Senators; direct primaries for all elective officers, with minimum nominating signatures; the short ballot; commission government for cities; complete home rule; municipalities to enact their own charters, having entire control over all municipal affairs, including local taxation and the acquirement and operation of public utilities; abolition of all taxes on industry and thrift; free the Erie Canal from railroad control of either boats or terminals; rigid control over railroads and other public utilities, with absolute prohibition, under forfeiture of franchise, of any discrimination against cities or shippers; abrogation of all unused railroad and other franchises; conservation of the State's natural resources through State ownership and control of all water powers under leases with short-term reappraisals; adult suffrage, and Constitutional amendment for workmen's compensation.

[See vol. xiii, pp. 658, 733.]



Another meeting of Democrats, held in Rochester on the 12th, and reported as representing forty counties of New York, is reported by the dispatches to have appointed—

an executive committee to conduct the affairs of the organization until it meets in Syracuse, October 1, to select a progressive candidate for Governor and progressive platform principles which will be supported in the Democratic convention.

The executive committee includes Jacob L. Ten Eyck of Albany County.



President Taft's Vetoes.

President Taft has vetoed the bill to revise the tariff on wool downward, sending his veto message to Congress on the 9th. In his message the President says:

I appeal to Congress to reconsider the measure which I now return without my approval, and to adopt a substitute therefor, making substantial reductions below the rates of the present act, which the Tariff Board shows possible without destroying any established industry or throwing any wage earners out of employment and which I will promptly approve.

[See current volume, page 754.]



Panama Canal Tolls.

By a vote of 47 to 15, the United States Senate passed the Panama Canal bill on the 9th with a provision exempting American ships from tolls, but denying the use of the canal to ships owned by competitive railroads. Under Senator Bourne's amendment, the Interstate Commerce Commission may compel divorce of railroad and water carriers in every case in which it decides that their union is prejudicial to public interests. Between American coastwise vessels and those engaged in foreign trade, the bill distinguishes. It permits the former to go through the canal free and unconditionally, but allows the latter to go through free only if their owners agree to sell to the government at a fair price in time of war or other emergency. [See current volume, pages 269, 674, 699, 722.]



Municipal Operation of Government Coal Mines.

Washington dispatches of the 9th reported that the Secretary of the Interior, Walter L. Fisher, officially proposes

a plan to allot government coal lands to cities, which in turn may operate them under certain regulations to supply municipal needs as well as those of citizens. As a first step in the plan he has recommended that Congress pass a bill granting 640 acres of coal land in the city of Grand Junction, Colo., and meanwhile the Interior Department has withdrawn from entry the land the city desires. Cities in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, Idaho, and other public land States west of the Missouri river would be vitally affected by the plan. The bill offered would authorize the Secretary of the Interior in his discretion to patent 640 acres of government coal land for each city and 160 for each town under conditions providing for prompt and continuous development of the coal, the prevention of any assignment or transfer of the land. It provides also for the safeguarding of the health and safety of men mining or handling the coal, the prevention of undue

waste of mineral resources. The Secretary believes any such patent should be safeguarded by the provision that the title of the land patented shall revert to the government; if any city or town to which coal land shall be patented shall at any time fail to perform any of the conditions of the patent.



Freedom for Seamen.

A bill abolishing the involuntary servitude of American sailors passed the lower house of Congress on the 3rd. In co-operation with the American Federation of Labor, the seamen's union had for twenty years unsuccessfully tried to get this legislation. The "Wilson bill" (it was introduced by Congressman W. B. Wilson of Pennsylvania) finally gives them a victory which awaits favorable action by the Senate and the signature of the President to make it effective. In reporting this bill the House committee described it as calculated to—

accomplish three very important things: First, it will give freedom to the sailors; second, it will permit safety at sea; third, it will equalize the operating expenses of foreign and domestic vessels engaged in their sea trade, and tend to build up our merchant marine.



The President of Hayti Loses Life in Explosion.

The national palace at Port au Prince, the capital of the Negro-French Republic of Hayti in the West Indies, was blown up by powder explosions preceded and followed by fire, on the 8th, and President Leconte, with most of the attendants and palace habitués, perished. It is believed that more than 400 persons lost their lives or were seriously injured. It is known that great quantities of ammunition and explosives were kept in the cellars of the palace, by order of President Leconte, to be used in case of an uprising. Whether these exploded through some accident, or whether the President was the victim of a plot, does not seem to have been determined, but evidence pointing to a plot has not as yet come to hand. [See current volume, page 255.]



General Cincinnatus Leconte won the Presidency of Hayti by intrigue and revolt, finally overthrowing President Antoine Simon last year, and getting himself unanimously elected by the Haytian National Assembly, August 14, 1911, while 20,000 of his soldiers encircled the building in which the session was being held. He was a mulatto of middle age, a lawyer by profession. [See vol. xiv, pp. 854, 877, 1004.]



At a joint session of the senate and chamber of deputies, hastily called together on the day of