

oldest established Spanish organ in Cuba, said on the 29th:

Some people admit that the present rebellion is over. We do not know whether they are right, but we do know that it should end quickly. If the insurrection does not end quickly there will be American intervention. If the war lasts long and the United States government does not intervene the Platt amendment will be a failure. In the fewest words, intervention would mean the loss or at least the diminution of Cuban independence. The lack of intervention were the war to continue long would be equivalent to the annulment of guaranties which up to the present induced foreign capitalists to invest their funds in Cuba. If instead of warranting peace, solvency and security in Cuba, the Platt amendment is to be restricted solely to the protection of American interests, it is almost certain that English, American and Spanish money should not have been invested in Cuba in such amounts as they have during the past year.

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Democratic Politics in Ohio.

The Democratic situation in Ohio (p. 439) as reported in the Ohio papers is very much clarified. Harvey C. Garber, the chairman of the State executive committee, and W. L. Finley, were believed on the 21st to have complete control of the convention then about to assemble, and it was known that they intended to insist upon endorsing a county local option law with reference to the sale of intoxicants. This proposed endorsement and one other plank caused nearly all the excitement on the eve of the convention, the other plank being Mayor Johnson's demand for an endorsement of Senator Howe's franchise taxation bill. On the intoxicant question, Mayor Johnson stated that he would favor a law settling the question through local option by local popular vote but not by petition. The convention met on the 21st, when Mr. Finley offered the following minority report on the subject of local option:

We urge the necessary legislation or constitutional amendment which will give the people of State, county or city, by petition of 5 per cent. in the State and a reasonable percentage in either political divisions, the right to bring any question to a popular vote, thereby vetoing, if they choose, any act of their representatives, or enacting by popular initiative any legislation which may meet with the approval of the majority. We believe that under the provisions the people of any community could solve all questions of temperance or other legislation to their own satisfaction.

This amendment was rejected by 576 to 337½, its defeat being due probably to the fact that the platform as reported to and adopted by the convention declared as follows regarding the initiative and referendum:

We favor the initiative and referendum, and such legislation and constitutional amendments as will make it effective as to State and local affairs.

The platform on the subject of taxation and home rule is as follows:

We demand that the laws shall be so amended that the revenue necessary for the expenses of the State shall be raised without calling upon the counties for a levy, and thereby secure for each county home rule in taxation, i. e., each county raise only what it needs for its own expenses and which its citizens authorize. We declare that the present laws for assessing the property of railroads and other public service corporations should be so changed as to compel the assessment of those properties at not less than their salable value as going concerns, and to

prevent their evasion of just taxation. We demand that the legislature shall enact such laws as will enable a tax to be levied on all franchise privileges as on other property which now, although of great value, pay nothing toward the burdens of government. We believe in free and unqualified home rule, free from State interference. Each city, town and village should be allowed to decide for itself all matters of local policy, especially as between public or private ownership of all public utilities, including street railways, as well as waterworks and lighting systems, and that provision should be made for submitting such questions to the people, upon request from a reasonable number of voters and at such elections the vote of a majority shall decide. Such public ownership should be safeguarded by the merit system of appointment and tenure of office, so as to prevent the building up of political machines and the perpetuation of a boss rule.

Railroad passes were condemned. The election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people was advocated, and the State committee was directed "to include in the call for the next State convention provisions for the nomination of a candidate for United States Senator by such convention." Bryan was referred to in these terms:

It is with feelings of pride that the half million Democrats of Ohio note the preparations making to receive the most distinguished private citizen of America upon his return from a tour of foreign lands. His intellectual endowments, his purity of morals, his high ideals have arrested the attention, and compel the admiration of the peoples of all climes. He returns to the United States splendidly equipped to grapple with the great problems of state. The Ohio Democracy renews its allegiance to his brilliant and matchless leadership. No other name appeals to us for Presidential preference. We cordially indorse our great commoner, William Jennings Bryan, for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency in 1908 and impatiently await the summons to battle under his banner.

Samuel O. Hoskins was nominated for Secretary of State to head the ticket.

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Regarding Mayor Johnson's relation to the convention the Cleveland Plain Dealer of the 23d said:

Defeated in his attempt to eliminate Congressman Garber as a controlling factor in the party organization, Mayor Johnson nevertheless came away from the convention in a stronger position than ever to continue his fight for principles which he has been preaching in Ohio for years. The franchise tax plank was adopted by the convention without discussion, exactly as written by the Cleveland mayor.

In the issue of the Plain Dealer for the previous day, W. S. Couch, its staff correspondent, had described the character of Johnson's "attempt to eliminate Congressman Garber as a controlling factor in the party organization," by saying:

No one believes that Johnson can fight a stronger campaign in Cleveland with the aid of Salen's political methods. He does not believe Garber's political skill is necessary to win Democratic successes in the State. He tells this convention so. And he adds that Garber methods will be a handicap to a campaign of reform. From the standpoint of Salen-Garber politics, from the politicians' standpoint, Mayor Johnson has been "licked." The convention has clung to Garber and refused to accept Johnson. But so at St. Louis the national Democracy listened to the voice of expediency and turned a deaf ear to William Jennings Bryan. Bryan was defeated, crushed, at St. Louis—in the opinion of practical

politicians. Expediency, organization politics, had their day in courts. The ultimate triumph was Bryan's.

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The Cleveland Traction Question.

An injunction suit against the City of Cleveland and the 3 cent fare road with reference to the Fulton Road tracks (p. 466) was begun by the old company on the 24th. The City and the 3 cent fare road claim that the old company have in Fulton Road only trackage rights as in free territory, whereas the old company contends that the free territory ordinance is in that particular a nullity and that they have exclusive franchise rights. Prior to the beginning of the suit a meeting of representatives of the City and of the two roads was held for the purpose of effecting an adjustment, if possible. The meeting became stormy, owing to the refusal of the old company to yield anything, and Mayor Johnson finally brought it to a close by saying:

"Now, here is the situation we find. One company offers to do everything to bring about an agreement; the other refuses to do anything. Clearly, this is a case where you merely talk fairly and act unfairly. You fill the newspapers and advertising columns with protestations of fairness, but you stand here as dogs in the manger trying to prevent somebody else from getting something you don't even want. You don't want to be decent and fair. There's only one way to deal with them. Meet technical right with technical right. You'll never get anything out of them except by the use of a club. I favor the use of a club. They stand always on the letter of the bond. Very well. Let it be that way. They will find that the city has the biggest club. You are occupying miles of streets in which you have no rights. There will come a time when favors are not to be had. You want your rights, do you? You'll get your rights and that is all you'll get. You'll cease to operate cars where you've got no rights and there'll be a policeman there to stop you. The time is close at hand when you will feel the club, when you'll find that it's better to act decently and be fair than to try to use the club."

Mayor Johnson then walked out. "The meeting closed," says the Plain Dealer, "with an indication that the Cleveland Electric [the old company] would relay its tracks in Fulton Road just as they were before the City tore them up, and with the indicated intention on the part of the City to tear them up on Sept. 4, at which time the ordinance passed by the council on the 20th becomes effective." The importance of this phase of the controversy lies in the fact that unless the switches at Fulton Road are changed, and it is this that the old company resists, the 3 cent fare company cannot lay tracks at the throat of either end of the street, which means that it cannot operate.

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In consequence of the unyielding attitude of the old company, the City Council on the 27th adopted resolutions declaring at an end all negotiations between that company and the city contemplating a renewal of the company's traction franchises.

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Customer: "Give me two yards of honesty, please."

Clerk: "Very sorry, madam, we are just out of honesty; but I can show you candor, which looks just like it, and is less expensive."—American Spectator.

NEWS NOTES

—The new railroad rate law (pp. 298, 314, 321) went into effect at midnight on the 27th.

—The Pan-American Conference (pp. 417, 487) closed its sessions at Rio Janeiro, with impressive ceremonies, on the 27th.

—Elihu Root, United States Secretary of State, reached the southernmost port of Chile, by way of the Straits of Magellan, on the 23d (p. 487).

—Mrs. Clara P. Bourland of Peoria, nominated last week for trustee of the State University by the Democratic convention (p. 489), has declined the nomination.

—Walter Wellman announces from Spitzbergen that owing to defects in the mechanical parts of his airship his expedition to the North Pole is deferred to next year (pp. 350, 373).

—President Roosevelt has approved the modified spelling recommended by the spelling reform committee of which Brander Matthews is chairman, and has ordered the public printer to adopt it in printing Executive documents.

—The hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Pike's Peak, by Captain Zebulon Montgomery Pike of the United States army, is to be celebrated during the week of Sept. 24-29, by the State of Colorado and the Federal government.

—Alaska is to send two miners, Thomas Cale and Frank Waskey, as her territorial delegates to Congress, representing the Miners' Administration party. They defeated the Republican and Democratic nominees by overwhelming majorities.

—Albert G. Lane, an assistant superintendent of schools of Chicago and formerly superintendent, who was also widely known in national educational circles, died at Chicago, on the 22d. He began educational work as a school principal at the age of 18.

—Japan has notified the United States that beginning with Sept. 1st, the port of Tairen, in Manchuria, is to be open to the commerce of all nations as a free port. Tairen is the Dalny of the Russians, and is practically the old Tallenwan of the Chinese.

—Ten indictments containing an aggregate of 6,428 counts were found on the 27th against the Standard Oil Company (p. 467) by two Federal grand juries, sitting in Chicago. Five different classes of offenses are charged, and items aggregating \$487,690 are specified as rebates paid to the Standard Oil Company by seven railroads within three years.

—There is a movement among the Cherokees of the Indian Territory against taking an active part in the politics of the new State to be formed from the Indian Territory and Oklahoma (p. 278). At a meeting of the Katowah society of full bloods at Tahlequah last week, attended by about 3,000 Indians, pledges not to vote at all were obtained from 1,000 full blooded Cherokees.

—The making of matches is a government industry in Japan, and the Japanese government has gained control of the match trade throughout the East. A compact is now announced between the Japanese government, the English match business