

known in Ohio as "the Dana law." It prohibited the printing of the name of any candidate in more than one column. Consequently, if two parties fused, both were compelled to present an incomplete ticket on the official ballot unless one would abandon its identity and, disappearing from the ticket altogether, allow the names of its candidates to appear in the party column of the party with which it had fused. This law is now repealed in Ohio. The whole ballot system ought to be changed by abolishing party columns and grouping the names of all candidates for the same office in alphabetical order as is done in Massachusetts; but the repeal of the anti-fusion law is a vast improvement even without the other.

In the wreckage wrought by the corporations at this session of the Ohio legislature, was the Metzger bill, a measure advocated by Mayor Johnson to curb the monopoly power of street car companies. Another was the bill of Senator Frederic C. Howe, which provided a simple but effective method for equitably taxing monopoly corporations. It proposed to abolish State taxes on the real and personal property assessed in the counties and raise more than this amount for State purposes by a tax on franchises which now pay no taxes. Both bills were killed by corporation interests, and some Democrats in the legislature lined up with Republican members behind the corporation lobby in order to do it.

It is probable that the democratic Democrats of Ohio will make the next campaign an occasion for educating the people of the State with reference to the corporation tools who have misrepresented them, as well as with reference to democratic principles. The corporations worked for the most part through local bosses. The head center boss was absent, but county bosses were in evidence, and every one of them was interested in some public utility franchise or other.

It will be generally interesting to know that a constitutional amendment for the initiative and referendum actually passed the Senate by the requisite three-fifths majority, but was not put to vote in the House because, while it would have received a majority its friends did not believe it could get three-fifths. The discussions of this measure revealed very clearly the fact that it is not the referendum but the initiative that the plutocratic elements have come to fear. They feel that public opinion can be restrained if the people are not allowed to vote upon any law until some manageable legislature has submitted it to referendum; but they are desperately afraid of public opinion coupled with the legal right of petitioning for a law and then directly voting it into operation.

While the legislature has adjourned, it has left an investigating committee at work in Cincinnati with what President Roosevelt might call "a muck rake," and not a little plutocratic muck is it raking up.

Mayor Johnson's street car policy, though still obstructed is constantly gaining ground. The Chamber of Commerce came to the aid of the companies with a proposal for renewing their franchises, but this proposal has fallen flat. Public opinion here gives no indication of any disposition to tolerate further gifts of valuable public rights to these companies, and most of the important support they have heretofore received is drifting away from them to the

"holding company" plan—like the "contract plan" of Chicago—with which Mayor Johnson is endeavoring to settle the question.

L. F. P.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Thursday, April 19.

Destructive Earthquake at San Francisco.

Almost immediately after the volcanic eruption at Mount Vesuvius (p. 29) had subsided, San Francisco was visited with a destructive earthquake. It was by far the most disastrous the city has ever experienced. The first shock, which occurred at 5:13 on the morning of the 18th, was quickly followed by another, and in the evening there came still another. Between these there were four minor shocks. The water works plant being destroyed, the city was exposed for lack of water to spreading fires and is at this moment in danger of total destruction. Lack of water for drinking purposes, also, is causing untold suffering, and the only relief respecting the need of both food and water must come by sea, all railroad communication having been cut off. Fears of a pestilence make a terrifying climax to the succession of horrors. Some estimates place the loss of life at 10,000 and the personal injuries at 20,000; but the actual loss of life will never be known, for the bodies of many who were killed by the earthquake were consumed in the fires that followed. The burned area, eight square miles in extent, comprises the business section, in which were the finest and largest business buildings of the city. Nearly all are in ruins. Chinatown is totally destroyed, the Japanese quarter is burned out, and the retail district is swept clean.

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The same disturbance that wrecked San Francisco extended to Palo Alto, where it destroyed Leland Stanford, Jr., University; to Berkeley, where it badly damaged the State University; to Agnew, where it wrecked the insane asylum and killed 275 inmates; to Salinas, where the Spreckels sugar factory was destroyed; to San Jose, where 65 persons were killed; to Napa, Stockton, Vallejo, Redwood City, and even to Sacramento, where it was sharply felt. By scientific instruments the shock was noted all over the globe.

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President Roosevelt's Sensational Speech.

Social conditions, with especial reference to business and political corruption, was the subject of a speech on the 14th by President Roosevelt. He had recently spoken at the Gridiron Club, Washington, under circumstances making reports of the speech