

which named no candidates, but condemned the Taft administration and denounced Cannon, Deeneen and Lorimer, included in their declaration of principles these clauses:

The American people will not tolerate the control of their markets by a few individuals dominating the trusts, nor will they consent that prices for steel, oil, woolens, or any other products shall be so fixed as to earn dividends on billions of watered stock. Such monopoly, stock watering, and arbitrary price fixing, we denounce as robbery of the many for the benefit of the few.

We favor the enactment of such legislation as may be necessary to secure Presidential preference primaries.

We favor the direct election of United States Senators.

We favor the extension of popular control over the agents and acts of government by means of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall. Practical experience has demonstrated that these measures constitute a wise and necessary supplement to but not a substitute for representative government. They will prevent the barter and sale of political authority by corrupt servants and make impossible the jackpot.

The taxing system of Illinois is antiquated and outgrown and imperatively demands revision in order that the burden of taxation may be equitably distributed.

We favor the appointment of an industrial commission to investigate the labor conditions in Illinois with special reference to unemployment, minimum wage for women and children, industrial diseases, and with a view of formulating legislative policies for the prevention of and insurance against losses now falling too heavily upon the individual worker.

We favor the enactment of adequate legislation for the supervision and regulation of all public utility corporations within the State.

We favor a short ballot. A long list of elective officers confuses the voter, complicates issues, and increases the power of the political boss, both in primaries and elections.

We favor a nonpartisan judiciary, a thorough corrupt practices act, conservation of the natural resources of the State, honest enforcement of the civil service laws.

We favor the abolition of minority representation in the State legislature."

[See current volume, page 34.]



### A Questionable Bargain.

Serious question has been raised by the City Club of Chicago regarding the wisdom and good faith of the proposed contract of the City with the Illinois Central Railroad regarding lake front land. In a pamphlet and through speeches before the harbor committee of the City Council on the 24th, this Club asserted that the railroad company would get 162 acres of submerged lands worth \$21,000,000 at an average valuation of only \$3 a square foot, and in addition 20,000 square feet of streets and alleys worth \$200,000,

while the city would get only 10½ acres of land, worth \$3,500,000, and riparian "claims" which even if they should be found to be legal are worth only \$430,000. Following is the City Club's tabulation of the estimates:

#### What Illinois Central Gets.

One hundred and sixty-two acres.....	\$21,000,000
Twenty thousand square feet street and alley vacated .....	200,000
Total .....	\$21,200,000

#### What the Public Gets.

Thirteenth street pier.....	\$ 1,500,000
Depot site and eighty-five foot strip, 39,000 square feet .....	2,000,000
Nine-tenth riparian rights.....	430,000
Total .....	\$ 3,930,000

Balance in favor Illinois Central.....\$17,270,000

[See vol. xiv, p. 1268.]



### Detroit's Traction Question.

At a referendum election in Detroit on the 23d, Mayor Thompson's measure for securing municipal ownership of the traction service on pre-determined terms at the option of the city, and meanwhile reducing fares under a franchise to the old companies expiring in 1924, was defeated by a decisive vote. The question submitted was as follows:

Do you favor adopting ordinance which makes provisions of Detroit railway ordinance cover the entire city, ends all franchises Dec. 4, 1924, fixes fare at eight tickets for 25 cents from 5 a. m. to 8 p. m., 5 cents (single fare), or six tickets for 25 cents at any time, with transfers (on both day and night tickets), secures certain extensions in 1912 and annually thereafter 5 per cent of track mileage in city streets, and gives the city right to purchase said system?

For adoption, the vote required was 60 per cent; but the measure not only fell short of the vote necessary for adoption, but was defeated by a clear majority, the vote being 22,259 for the ordinance and 30,648 against. [See vol. xii, p. 1120; vol. xiii, pp. 208, 805; vol. xiv, p. 1102.]



Mayor Thompson's measure had been framed in consultation with and under the advice of the late Mayor Johnson of Cleveland until the latter's death, and thereafter of Mayor Johnson's coadjutor, A. B. du Pont, with a view to putting the city in position to take over the property and municipalize it. The adverse vote was secured not because of popular objection to municipalizing, but in consequence of a campaign of municipalizers against any further public utility franchises on any terms.



Since the election, an ordinance has been in-

troduced in the City Council to compel the traction company to carry passengers on all its lines where franchises have expired; and steps are in contemplation to condemn the plant to public use upon payment of its physical value. This is the traction system that Governor Pingree and Tom L. Johnson tried to bring over into city ownership several years ago at a price which the City rejected as excessive. This rejection left in corporation ownership and control a public utility property that soon rose in market value to a point 50 per cent higher than the rejected price.



#### Organized Labor and the Singletax in Oregon.

At the meeting of the Oregon State Federation of Labor on the 17th the following resolution was adopted with only two dissenting votes:

Whereas, The people of Oregon have accepted as a part of the Constitution of the State the measure endorsed and proposed by the Oregon State Federation of Labor in 1910, which does away with the iniquitous poll tax, takes from the legislature the power of enacting tax laws without the direct consent of the people, places in the hands of the people the direct and sovereign power of taxation, either in the Commonwealth as a whole or in the several counties for their local revenues; and whereas, this has made the matter of taxation a leading public issue, and the question of the taxation of labor products, capital invested in productive enterprises, homes and improvements and personal property of all kinds, open to the people to legislate upon, therefore, be it—

Resolved, That the taxation of land values exclusive of all improvements and personal property wherever to any extent put in practice encourages the employment of labor, attracts capital seeking to invest in manufacturing enterprises, discourages the monopoly of land and other natural resources being held for speculation and not for use, builds up the city and encourages the working farmer by reducing his taxation burdens, puts the workers in homes of their own, and makes for the higher forms of civilization.

Resolved, That it is to the best interests of the working and producing people of Oregon, in city and country, to the best interest of capital not seeking special privilege and monopoly, to the best interests of all Oregon, that special privileges in land, in water and in transportation and public service franchises instead of personal property and improvements, be made to carry public burdens, and that the power of the people to make such regulations for the raising of public revenues should not be impaired or abolished.



#### Extension of the Singletax in Canada.

The royal commission on taxation of the Province of British Columbia, Canada, submitted its report to the Provincial Parliament on the 23rd. It makes these three principal recommendations: (1) abolition of poll taxes; (2) abolition of per-

sonal property taxes; (3) abolition of taxes on real estate improvements. According to the news dispatches these recommendations were adopted by the royal commission after a thorough investigation of the character and workings of the whole system of taxation in the Province of British Columbia. If the recommendations of this report are adopted by the Provincial Parliament, all the taxation of the entire province—like that of Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria, for city purposes—will be upon land values only. [See vol. xiv, pp. 770, 892.]



#### Political Lynchings in Ecuador.

As a strange sequel to the close of the little civil war in Ecuador has come news of the lynching by the populace of General Pedro Montero, the head of the revolutionary government which capitulated on the 22nd as reported last week. The dispatches relate that General Montero was tried on the evening of the 25th by courtmartial at Guayaquil, which had been the headquarters of his party and the scene of his surrender, and was sentenced to sixteen years imprisonment; and that thereupon the fickle populace, desiring a more severe punishment, mobbed the courtroom, shot the prisoner, and later beheaded him and burned his body. Other revolutionary leaders, including Eloy Alfaro (a former President of Ecuador), and General Paez, in prison at Guayaquil, were then hastily sent by night to Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and the headquarters of General Leonidas Plaza's victorious government. An amazing dispatch of the 28th, from Guayaquil, relates that on that day an infuriated mob had broken into the Quito penitentiary, and in spite of doubled guards had lynched General Eloy Alfaro, his wounded brother—General Flavio Alfaro, General Ulpiano Paes, Manuel Serrano and Medardo Alfaro, all revolutionists. [See current volume, page 82.]



#### Shuster in London.

W. Morgan Shuster, late Treasurer-General of Persia, was given a banquet at the Savoy in London on the 29th, by the Persian committee which is composed of members of the House of Commons and other prominent men. Mr. Shuster's frank defense of Persia's independence was enthusiastically cheered, according to the news reports. The Chicago Inter Ocean's dispatch describes Mr. Shuster's speech as—

a detailed narrative of the wrecking of Persia's constitutional government. He placed the entire responsibility upon Russian antagonism to a strong, independent Persia, and made it plain that he thought the British people had been deceived regarding the facts. He declared that 99 per cent of the disorders charged as a partial excuse for intervention had been imported by Russia. Replying to