

ing, regulating or terminating the franchises of its public service corporations, and of recalling its elective officers. Partisan and machine politics and government are inhibited, and a municipal democracy substituted therefor. No fixed tenure of office or employment is permitted, except subject to recall of elective officers, and as authorized by a classified civil service for employes. The city wards and the saloons are abolished. Opportunities for graft and favoritism in innumerable directions are eliminated. The city is divided into five administrative departments: public affairs, finance and supplies, highways, health and civic beauty, and water and sewers. But the question of having three commissioners to administer the five departments, instead of the five provided for in the charter, is submitted as an alternative proposition to a vote of the qualified electors at the same time that they vote on the adoption of the charter. The commission form of government has been improved by electing each commissioner directly to his department and clearly defining his duties. As each commissioner is required to take the active charge and management of his department, giving his whole time to it, he is regarded as having before him the opportunity and incentive of becoming a specialist therein. Taxes on occupations, license fees for selling fruits and vegetables or any other products of the State, and poll taxes, are all abolished.

The most unique feature, however, of the Grand Junction plan is its preferential system of voting at popular elections. Instead of providing for direct primaries as in the Des Moines plan (pp. 331, 470) or for second elections as in the Berkeley plan (p. 155), the Grand Junction plan provides for a complete unification of primaries and elections at each election, and for the choice of candidates in proportion to the number of their respective supporters. As the official summary expresses it, "the preferential system of voting has been established in lieu of direct primaries or of second elections, thus securing a unique and accurate expression of the public will at the polls, with the minimum of cost and effort." This innovation is a form of proportional representation, now widely in use in Australia. It has never been adopted in the United States, except in a modified way, and only for primaries in the State of Idaho. If the people of Grand Junction adopt this charter in September, preferential voting will have its first trial in the United States at Grand Junction in November.

Issues of National Interest in Nebraska.

Judicial nullification of legislative acts promises to be a live issue in Nebraska politics this fall, although the election in November is a

bye-election, the only officers to be chosen being three judges of the Supreme Court and two regents of the State University.

Nebraska's last legislature, which was Democratic, passed laws providing for the guaranty of bank deposits and for the non-partisan election of judges of the Supreme and District courts. Both of these laws have been nullified by the courts. In the case of the bank guaranty law, final decision has not been rendered. A temporary restraining order, pending a final decision of the constitutionality of the act, has been issued by Willis Vandevanter, a Federal judge, whose residence is in Wyoming. It was issued at the instigation of about fifty bankers, who combined in a suit, and whose chief counsel is William V. Allen, formerly a Populist United States Senator for Nebraska. The non-partisan judiciary law was declared unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court, on what a layman would pronounce frivolous grounds. These two judicial acts have aroused considerable public indignation. The spectacle of a non-resident Federal judge coming into the State and preventing the enforcement of a law passed by a legislature chosen by the people—such law having been a campaign issue—is especially distasteful to a large number of Nebraska people.

The Democratic State convention, called solely to promulgate a platform, took cognizance of the acts of the State and Federal judiciary and, in its platform, after recounting what had occurred, inserted the following plank:

We submit that this presents an issue of great and far reaching importance. We are coming to be more and more a people governed by our courts. The courts are the bulwarks of our liberties as well as the harbor to which special privilege flees in every storm, and the instrumentalities through which it asserts, with growing arrogance, its power to defy the people's legislatures and the people's executives. There never was a time when the necessity for keeping courts invested with, or asserting extraordinary powers on a plane above suspicion or reproach, presented itself more forcefully than it does now.

Three of the judges who pronounced the judicial act unconstitutional are candidates for renomination on the Republican ticket. Should they receive the nomination at the coming primaries, a strong appeal will be made to the people to defeat them as a punishment for that decision.

Enactment of the New Tariff Law.

The tariff bill (p. 755) which has been pending in Congress since its meeting in special session on the 15th of last March (p. 271) was adopted

by the Senate on the 5th as reported by the conference committee, and, having already passed the lower house, was immediately signed by the President and is now the law.

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Prior to the vote there was some discussion, in the course of which Senator Dolliver (Republican) of Iowa presented a statement prepared by the Treasury Department, and said:

It shows that the rates in the cotton schedule are increased over the present law all along the line, and some of them as much as 100 per cent. And yet the statement has been made here that only minor and insignificant changes had been made in that schedule. The American people are being duped with that kind of humbug and misrepresentation. I denounce this as an organized conspiracy against the American people. I do not propose to go back to my people and tell them I accepted an act which, in a few years, is likely to mean a reorganization of the cotton business with unnumbered millions in common stock, issued against the statutes of the United States.

Senator La Follette (Republican) of Wisconsin presented for publication in the Record as a document a statement carefully prepared by the bureau of manufactures of the Department of Commerce and Labor, showing 286 increases of duty and 38 decreases of duty, which do not appear in the table printed by the conferees; and, alluding to his having been prevented from commenting, said that nevertheless between now and December he would make a number of speeches, in the course of which he would express his opinion of the Senate and the tariff bill.

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In the vote Democrats were supported in opposition to the bill by the following Republicans:

Beveridge of Indiana, Bristow of Kansas, Clapp of Minnesota, Cummins of Iowa, Dolliver of Iowa, La Follette of Wisconsin, and Nelson of Minnesota. The vote stood 47 for the bill and 31 opposed.

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An attempt to put cotton bagging into the free list was defeated by 43 to 36; and by 42 to 23 an attempt to put shoes, harness and saddlery into the free list was also voted down. A concurrent resolution was immediately adopted by both Houses correcting the leather schedule.

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President Taft signed the new law at 5:05 p. m., and at 6 the two Houses adjourned sine die.

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The New Tariff Law.

As enacted, the new tariff law (p. 755) is long, technical and complicated.

It puts into the free list hides, petroleum, cotton seed oil, croton oil, paintings and sculpture twenty years old, wooden fence-posts, canary seed, radium, and several chemicals; but it takes out of the Dingley free list tin and tin ore after American mines shall begin to produce 1,500 tons a year.

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It authorizes the President to employ experts to assist him in enforcing the tariff.

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It continues the reciprocity arrangements with Cuba, and establishes free trade to a limited extent with the Philippines.

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Drawbacks are allowed on exported products into the manufacture of which dutiable imports have been used.

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A court of appeal in customs cases is established with five \$10,000 judges whose decisions are to be final.

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The clause for taxing corporations provides for a tax of 1 per cent upon the entire net income over and above \$5,000 exclusive of amount received as dividends upon stock of other corporations subject to the tax. Exempted from this tax are labor, agricultural and horticultural organizations, fraternal beneficiary societies, orders and associations operating under the lodge system and providing for the payment of life, sick, accident and other benefits to members, domestic building and loan associations operated exclusively for the benefit of members, and religious, charitable and educational institutions. Corporations subject to the tax must file attested reports. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue is empowered to examine the books of any corporation as he deems expedient, but no information collected by the government relative to the affairs of the corporation shall be made public except on orders of the President.

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The bill makes the rate of duty prescribed by the schedules of the dutiable list the minimum tariff of the United States, and provides that an addition thereto of 25 per cent ad valorem shall constitute the maximum tariff, which shall be applied on proclamation to be issued by the President to such foreign countries as apply discriminations against American imports or pay export bounties or impose export duties or prohibition.

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President Taft's Apology.

Following his approval of the new tariff law (p. 755) President Taft gave to the newspapers a