

the service and diminishing the rates to the consumers. (2) The progressive reduction of the hours of labor, the increase of wages in order to decrease the share of the capitalist and increase the share of the workingman in the product of labor. (3) State or national insurance of working people in case of accidents, lack of employment, sickness and want in old age; the funds to be collected from the revenue of the capitalist class.

On the same day it was decided that in every state and territory in which there is one central organization of the party this organization, and not the national, shall govern in local affairs.

The only other item of American political news relates to the bolting democratic convention of Ohio, called (p. 236) to meet on the 31st. Its failure was assured almost from the start. Not only did Mr. Bryan advise against it, but Gen. Isaac R. Sherwood, of Toledo, one of the most prominent admirers of Bryan and champions of free silver in the state, who had been depended upon to be the bolting candidate for governor, formally announced on the 27th that he was not in sympathy with the movement. The convention met at Columbus, pursuant to the call. It was so sparsely attended that it met in a hotel bedroom. When it adopted the name of "Progressive Democratic party," one delegate bolted. A full state ticket was nominated, with Dr. Rudolph Reemelin, of Cincinnati, as candidate for governor; but Dr. Reemelin is reported as having declined. The leading spirit of the convention was G. A. Groot, a Cleveland lawyer.

In the field of national as distinguished from party politics, we are able to record the establishment of free trade between the American crown colony of Puerto Rico and the American states. Pursuant to the act of congress (Foraker act) of April 12, 1900 (No. 105 of The Public, p. 5), and the petition of the colonial government of Puerto Rico (p. 217), President McKinley issued his proclamation on the 25th, the anniversary of the American occupation of the island, setting forth the facts which, under the Foraker act, put an end to the tariff. He declares:

that a civil government for Puerto Rico has been organized in accordance with the provisions of the said

act of congress; and . . . that the legislative assembly of Puerto Rico has enacted and put into operation a system of local taxation to meet the necessities of the government of Puerto Rico.

As the Foraker act provides that when a system of local taxation to meet the necessities of the colonial government shall have been put into operation in Puerto Rico, tariff duties shall no longer be imposed, this proclamation formally makes known the establishment of free trade between the states and the colony. The immediate result was a great shipment of goods to Puerto Rico, so large as to crowd the capacity of the carrying companies.

Another matter of national politics not partisan, but one of a much less satisfactory character, is the distribution of public lands in Oklahoma to private parties by a lottery. On the 7th President McKinley proclaimed the 6th of August as the date for opening these lands to settlement. His proclamation further declared that between July 10 and 26 persons wishing to acquire holdings must register their qualifications to make homestead entries, and that the order of entry should be determined by lot, at public drawing, to begin at El Reno July 29. The rush for registration was great from the first registration day. At the end of the second day 15,000 had registered, and on the last day of registration the total number ran up to 165,865. Yet there were only 13,000 homesteads to be assigned. On the 29th the drawing began. The choicest claims, to the number of 1,000, were then awarded by the verdict of the lottery wheel. They ranged in value from \$40,000 down to \$2,000. On the second day, the 30th, a larger number of prizes was drawn—3,500. Though not so valuable they were worth far more than the \$1.25 an acre, which these land prize winners must uniformly pay.

The drought, of which we wrote briefly last week (p. 249), was broken on the 28th, when heavy rains watered the western corn belt. The weekly crop bulletin of the agricultural department at Washington, issued on the 30th, published this account of the extraordinary heat and its termination:

Intense heat prevailed during the greater part of the week throughout the central valleys, but the tempera-

tures during the last three days were more moderate. Good rains have fallen over a large part of the drought area in the Mississippi and upper Missouri valleys, but drought conditions have become more serious in the Ohio valley and Tennessee, where the week has been rainless, except in a few localities. In the Atlantic coast districts the weather conditions have been generally favorable, except over portions of the Carolinas and Virginia, where rain is now needed. The conditions were also favorable on the Pacific coast. Recent rains have improved late corn in portions of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri, but the early crop was practically ruined before the rains came. In Iowa the crop has sustained less injury than in the before mentioned states, and the rainfall has been copious and well distributed. In the great corn states east of the Mississippi river, except over northern Illinois, drought and excessive heat have continued with disastrous effects upon corn, which is now in a critical condition. In Michigan and generally throughout the middle Atlantic states and New England the corn crop is in fine condition.

Besides the above mentioned matters there is no definite news of the week, of historical value, except the appointment, at the request of Rear Admiral Schley (p. 250), of a court of inquiry to investigate his conduct in the Spanish war. The court as at first announced consisted of Admiral George Dewey, president; Rear Admiral Lewis A. Kimberly and Rear Admiral Andrew E. K. Benham. Admiral Kimberly has asked to be excused, and another officer will be appointed in his place. None, however, has yet been named. Capt. S. C. Lemly, the law officer of the navy department, is appointed judge advocate. In appointing the court, the department directed it to "inquire thoroughly into all the circumstances," but specifically to report its conclusions upon the following points:

1. Admiral Schley's conduct in the Santiago campaign;
- (2) his movements off Cienfuegos;
- (3) the reasons for his going from there to Santiago;
- (4) the movements of the "flying squadron" off Santiago;
- (5) Schley's "disobedience" of department orders;
- (6) the question of coaling the "flying squadron";
- (7) the question of destroying the Spanish cruiser Colon at the entrance to Santiago harbor in May, 1898;
- (8) the question of withdrawing the "flying squadron" from Santiago harbor to a distance at sea at night;
- (9) Schley's turning movement during the naval battle of July 3, 1898; and
- (10) the propriety of Schley's conduct in connec-