

secure the passage of a constitutional amendment—a necessary prerequisite—would be futile.”

**Democratic politics in Nebraska.**

Under the call of the State committee, a mass meeting of Nebraska Democrats was held at Lincoln on the 6th to confer upon the policy of the party. At the dollar dinner in the evening the principal speakers from other States were ex-Gov. Thomas of Colorado and Gen. Weaver of Iowa.

**John W. Bengough in the United States.**

Upon the occasion of his visit to Chicago on the 2d, John W. Bengough, the Canadian cartoonist, lecturer, poet and journalist (p. 611) who is well known to readers of The Public through his weekly cartoons, was tendered a complimentary banquet at the Auditorium by over a hundred of his Chicago admirers. Hamlin Garland, the novelist, was toastmaster. The first speech of welcome was by the celebrated American cartoonist, John T. McCutcheon, who noted as a fundamental agreement between himself and Mr. Bengough regarding successful cartooning that the underlying principle of the cartoon must be its truth. William D. Nesbit, the versatile poet of Chicago, welcomed the guest as a poet; Trumbull White, editor of The Red Book, welcomed him as a journalist, and Herbert B. Bigelow, of Cincinnati, welcomed him as a single taxer. Mr. Bengough responded uniquely and entertainingly in the mixed character of a serious after dinner speaker, a versatile impersonator, a poet, a recitator, a single tax expositor and a witty cartoonist making his pictures as he talked.

**NEWS NOTES**

—Lieut. Gen. Schofield, U. S. A., retired, died at St. Augustine, Fla., on the 4th at the age of 75.

—A bill for the creation of a railroad rate commission was passed by the lower house of the Ohio legislature on the 6th.

—Judge William Moore, the municipal ownership candidate for mayor of Seattle, was elected on the 7th by 15 plurality.

—At the municipal election at Cedar Rapids, Ia., on the 5th, Mayor Huston

(p. 806) was defeated for reelection by 1,900 adverse plurality.

—Joseph Medill Patterson, Commissioner of Public Works of Chicago (pp. 36, 38, 49, 537) resigned that office on the 2d, declaring himself a socialist.

—John R. Walsh, president of the defunct Chicago National Bank, (pp. 610, 615,) was arrested on the 2d charged with making false entries in the books of the bank.

—The debate began in the lower house of the Austrian parliament on the 7th in support of a general equal and direct suffrage bill for Austria, proposed by the premier.

—In the Supreme Court of Texas on the 26th it was decided that contracts between railroads and express companies are in violation of the anti-trust law, because they are a combination tending to restrict commerce, fix rates, etc.

—On the 3d Chairman Taggart, of the Democratic National committee, announced that by a vote of 33 to 6 Tom L. Johnson, of Cleveland, had been elected by the committee to fill the Ohio vacancy caused by the resignation of John R. McLean.

—Judge Blanchard, of the Supreme Court of New York, decided on the 3d that the right of labor unions to maintain peaceable picketing during a strike is a corollary of the statutory right to combine, since this necessarily involves the right to persuade non-members to join the combination.

—At Caldwell, Idaho, on the 6th, the grand jury indicted the labor leaders extradited from Colorado (p. 785)—Charles H. Moyer, William D. Haywood and George A. Pettibone—for the murder of ex-Gov. Steiensenberg by conspiracy with the confessed assaillant, Harry Orchard, who was indicted with them.

—The monthly statement of the United States treasury department (see p. 696) for January, 1906, shows the following for the seven months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1906:

Gold reserve fund.....	\$150,000,000.00
Available cash.....	143,885,082.51
Total.....	\$293,885,082.51
On hand at close of last fiscal year, June 30, 1905.....	292,490,322.87
Increase.....	\$1,394,759.64

—A conference of various schools of social reformers was held last week at the home of J. G. Phelps Stokes, at Norton Point, Conn. Among the invited attendants were George Fred Williams, of Boston; William Kent, of Chicago; Victor Berger, of Milwaukee; Morris Hilquit, Leonard Abbott, Gaylord Wilshire, John Sprague, John Ford, Arthur Brisbane, Franklin H. Giddings, John DeWitt Warner and Ernest Crosby, of New York, and George Ricord, of Jersey City.

—The monthly treasury report of receipts and expenditures of the Federal government (see p. 696) for January, 1906, shows the following for the seven months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1906:

Receipts:	
Tariff.....	\$176,758,793.03
Internal revenue.....	148,342,764.90
Miscellaneous.....	22,547,487.39
	<u>\$347,648,845.32</u>
Expenses:	
Civil and Misc.....	\$76,748,855.10
War.....	58,668,877.53
Navy.....	68,756,681.77
Indians.....	7,741,926.25
Pensions.....	\$3,329,124.22
Public works.....	38,667,978.69
Interest.....	17,169,127.06
	<u>351,021,570.72</u>
Deficit.....	\$2,372,725.40

—James S. Hogg, former governor of Texas, died at Houston on the 3d. While governor he made implacable war on lawless trusts, monopolies, railroads, banks and insurance companies. In his campaign for reelection he was slandered, and ridiculed in his own party; the press of the State was solid against him; every corporate institution in the State was back of the movement; every financial power in the United States joined in; Texas was overrun by agents of railroads, banks, trusts and mortgage companies; his name was used in ribald and impolite ways; his administration was called the "Hogg" blight; Texas never saw such a fierce campaign. But Gov. Hogg was reelected by 65,000 majority. When he left the governor's chair ten years ago he is said to have had just \$55.

**PRESS OPINIONS**

**HOME RULE.**

Omaha World-Herald (Dem.), Feb. 21.—It cannot be too often repeated that the seat of our liberties is not in the government we have at Washington, but in the government we have at home.

**THE POSTAL CENSORSHIP.**

The Peoria (Ill.) Star (Ind.).—It is evident to everyone that the post office authorities are exercising too much power in the issuing of fraud orders, depriving firms and persons of the use of the mails without giving any reason therefor, or any relief.

**THE GEORGIA EQUAL RIGHTS CONVENTION.**

Springfield Republican (Ind.), Mar. 1.—It is a moving appeal which is made in this address to the white population of Georgia, and we cannot suppose it will be without effect among the more enlightened of the "superior race." No attempt is made to deny the shortcomings of the Negro, but the question is fairly asked whether the colored race is likely to be improved or its presence made more tolerable by the educational, economic and political discriminations which are being practiced by Georgia whites against that race.

The Richmond (Va.) Planet (Negro), Mar. 3.—The leading colored men of Georgia, in their Equal Rights Convention held February 13 and 14, 1906, have certainly given President Roosevelt, his cabinet, the Supreme Court and the people of the United States something to think about. The com-