

Labor and tax reform in the United States.

One of the important labor union gatherings in the United States was the convention of the International Typographical Union at Toronto, which closed on the 19th. This meeting was distinguished by its action on the following resolution, offered by Weldon L. Crosman, a delegate from Boston and identified in the records as "Proposition No. 49":

Whereas, the plank on land monopoly in the platform of the American Federation of Labor declares that occupancy and use should be the only title to land; and whereas, such an arrangement would be a denial of equality in the right of all persons to the use of the earth; resolved, that the delegates from the International Typographical Union to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, be instructed to propose and support the following change in plank 10 of the platform of the American Federation of Labor: "The abolition of the monopoly system of land holding by taxing all land according to its value."

The proposition was referred to the committee on resolutions, which reported it back without recommendation. Its adoption having then been moved by Mr. Crosman and seconded by A. H. Blain, a delegate from Seattle, Mr. Crosman advocated it on the floor to such effect that a hostile motion to lay it on the table, made by Delegate Condon, of Des Moines, was defeated. It was finally referred to the delegates from the International Typographical Union to the American Federation of Labor, who now have the power to decide whether or not to present it in the name of the Typographical union, to the Federation at its next convention.

Printers' strike at Chicago.

A conflict in the typographical trade, which bids fair to become national, began at Chicago on the 26th. Typographical Union No. 16 (the Chicago union) had set January 1, 1906, for insisting upon an 8-hour day. In view of this the Chicago Typothetae (the Chicago union of employing printers), at their meeting on the 21st decided to offer a continuation of the present 9-hour day, wages and other conditions to remain undisturbed, and in case of the rejection of this proposition to post "open shop" notices in all the printing establishments of their members

—that is, to give notice that they would thereafter employ non-union as well as union printers. But it was left to each member to decide individually when to post this notice, prior to January 1st. No adjustment was effected, and on the 26th some of the Typothetae establishments posted notices to this effect:

Hereafter this composing room will be operated as an open shop. The hours of labor and the scale of wages will remain as before.

The employes paid no attention to these notices, but when the notices were followed, a few hours later, by the introduction of non-union men into the composing rooms, the regular employes struck. The number of strikers on the 26th was 274, distributed as follows among the following establishments:

A. R. Barnes & Co.....	18
R. R. Donnelley & Sons company..	125
Rand, McNally & Co.....	100
Steveps, Maloney & Co.....	6
Wagner & Hanson.....	15
Clinic Publishing Co.....	10

To this number 175 had been added on the 30th. Some of the establishments struck against, had not employed non-union men, but they had refused, upon application of President Wright and John C. Harding, officers of the typographical union, to give favorable assurances.

Municipal ownership progress in Chicago.

Several meetings of the local transportation committee of the Chicago City Council have been held to consider Mayor Dunne's plan for municipal ownership and operation of the traction service (p. 310); but as all have been behind closed doors no authentic information of the proceedings is available for publication, although the local papers are full of gossip reports. But Mayor Dunne has made public the preliminary report to him of his traction expert, A. B. du Pont, of Detroit. This report describes 264 miles, single trackage measure, of streets already available to the city or to become so within two years, and among his estimates are the following:

Cost of system.....	\$25,000,000
Gross earnings for 1908 (first year of operation).....	12,000,000
Net earnings for 1908.....	4,150,000
Gross earnings for 1913.....	15,315,378
Net earnings for 1913.....	4,726,151

An opinion on the legality of the Mayor's plan was ordered on the 28th, by the committee, of Clarence S. Darrow and Edgar B. Tolman, the city's special counsel in traction matters. On the 29th it was announced that Glenn E. Plumb, associate counsel for the city on this subject, has discovered a clause heretofore overlooked in the so-called 99-year act, which makes it clear that this act, instead of granting a long term franchise to the traction companies for some of the most important streets, actually forbids their use of those streets.

Municipal ownership in Springfield.

Satisfactory progress in the municipal ownership movement in Springfield, Ill., (p. 278), has been made by Mayor Devereaux, largely due, as he states, to the committee from the Springfield Business Men's Association, consisting of Joseph Farris, Frank Bode and Henry Bengel. This committee was responsible for the mass meeting which showed the pulse of the public at large and was addressed by James M. Graham, Major Connolly, J. W. Patton and Alfred Orendorff. Notwithstanding the original strength in the City Council of those who favored again leasing the city's lighting plant to the private company, the Council voted on the 28th, 10 to 3, for the following motion offered by Alderman J. H. McCreery:

That the mayor be authorized and empowered to take over and operate the municipal lighting plant for the city as soon as possession of it can be obtained.

NEWS NOTES

—On the 25th President Roosevelt accepted an election as honorary vice president of the Public Schools Athletic League.

—President Roosevelt made a trip to the bottom of the sea on the 25th, in the submarine "Plunger," of the United States navy.

—The fourth annual convention of the Catholic Knights of America, founded in Kentucky in 1877, met at Chicago on the 27th.

—An eclipse of the sun occurred on the 30th. The path of total eclipse began at a point near Lake Winnipeg, in North America, and ended at a point on the Arabian coast east of Aden.

—At the second session, of the school board of Chicago, as changed by Mayor Dunne's appointments (p.